Info sought on successful, unsuccessful BOOST Program applicants. PAGE 5
21 schools join Christmas in the Marianas fete. Page 6

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 231

www.saipantribune.com | MONDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2022 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Cockfighting ban challenge dismissed

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After over a month since taking the matter under advisement, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona has ordered the permanent dismissal of the lawsuit filed by former CNMI representative Andrew Salas to lift the U.S. law prohibiting cockfighting in the CNMI.

Manglona

Salas

See COCKFIGHTING on Page 4

Torres, Sablan cast votes for runoff election

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres flashes the No. 2 sign as a Commonwealth Election Commission staff checks his identification card to be allowed to cast his vote at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday morning. Also in the photo behind Torres is his wife, first lady Diann Tudela Torres. Torres and his running mate, Sen. Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan (R-Saipan), of the Republican Party, are No. 2 on the ballots in the Nov. 25 runoff election. Other photo shows Sablan removing his identification card from his wallet and handing it over to a CEC staff.

» Ex-Democratic Party chair Quitugua, Juan Maratita endorse Torres-Sablan
» CEC finds early voting turnout so far as 'good'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his running mate, Sen. Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan (R-Saipan), of the Republican Party, cast their votes at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday morning, which was the third day of the seven-day early voting for the runoff election.

As this developed, Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Kayla S. Igitol described the early voting turnout as

See TORRES on Page 4

5 NMC students receive SINMI grant award

LEIGH GASES

Front, from left, the first "Live Your Dreams" recipient, Leah Murphy, poses with the 2022 Live Your Dreams recipients Jennifer Benavente, Mollie Atinisom, Angellyn Nicholas, Maritoni Duarte, and Kelly Sablan. At the back, from left, are Soroptimist International Northern Mariana Islands past president Marilyn Marron, SINMI president Maureen Sebangiol, treasurer Merle Byrd, Suzi Perez, Soroptimist Live Your Dreams chair Jessy Loomis, president of Soroptimist Marianas Jessica Castro, SINMI member Yijia Zhao, Joann Aquino and secretary Pam Brown Blackburn.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Five Northern Marianas College students were presented this year's edition of the "Live Your Dream" awards by the Soroptimist International NMI last Saturday at the Azucena Hall of the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan. The five recipients are Jennifer Benavente, Angellyn Nicholas, Mollie Atinisom, Kelly Fujihira Sablan, and Maritoni Duarte. This makes it the first time for SINMI to present the award to five persons; last year, they presented the grant award to three persons.

A total of $7,000 was given to the awardees, with an additional $1,500 given by the Rotary Club of Saipan. Benavente was awarded $3,000, while

See NMC on Page 4

No gun found in MHS sweep

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite already negating claims that a student was going to bring a gun to school, the Marianas High School administration still took every precaution last Friday to ensure its students' safety by placing the school on lockdown so they could individually search every student's belongings. No gun was found, however.

The MHS administration placed the entire campus on

See NO GUN on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION
President Joe Biden faces a decision whether he should announce for reelection in 2024.
PAGE 16

HEALTH & WELLNESS
Many people, particularly guys, are trying to decide whether to get an influenza (flu) shot.
PAGE 18

LIFE & STYLE
The breakdown in Ticketmaster's sales of Taylor Swift tickets is a mess some AGs aren't shaking off.
PAGE 19

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Bartley Jackson, middle, announced that Hollywood movie producer Brad Krevoy will set up shop in the CNMI during a Rotary Club of Saipan meeting last Tuesday at the Regency Ballroom in the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

LEIGH GASES

Film studio seen as move to diversify economy further

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

In a move that he describes as another way to diversify the CNMI economy while also boosting the CNMI's image abroad, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is touting this week's visit by movie producer Brad Krevoy, who is reportedly planning to set up shop in the Commonwealth.

An Office of the Governor news release confirmed that Krevoy will be coming to Saipan this week, stating that "Krevoy is set to create a film industry in the CNMI by developing a movie studio, creating new jobs for local residents, and producing a minimum of 20 motion pictures during the next five years."

Northern Marianas College will be hosting a meet and greet with Krevoy at the Hafa Adai Roasting Company Cafe in T-Galleria today, Nov. 21, from 6pm to 8pm.

"I want to thank Mr. Krevoy for accepting my invitation and taking the time to visit the CNMI. I also want to express my gratitude for his interest in wanting to help diversify the CNMI's industries, as he would be bringing his experience and expertise to the Marianas to develop a film industry based here," said Torres in the Office of the Governor news release.

Torres said he has always advocated for the diversification "of our industries here in the CNMI for our economy and for our people. Not only will Mr. Krevoy's investment in a film industry in the CNMI benefit our local existing and aspiring filmmakers, as well as generate revenue for our government and expand job opportunities for our entire community, but it will also positively impact and boost our tourism industry because of the exposure the CNMI will receive from films made here in our beautiful islands," stated Torres.

Bridge Capital, LLC vice president Bartley Jackson spoke about Krevoy's visit and plans during the Rotary Club of Saipan's meeting last Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Jackson said that part of Krevoy's plans is to train a resident film crew in the art of picture making, editing, just the nuts and bolts of how to make a movie."

"He's in discussions currently with NMC president [Dr.] Galvin [Deleon Guerrero], regarding the creation of a film study curriculum at NMC for those in the Commonwealth interested in the production side and performance side of filmmaking," Jackson added.

DPS on the hunt for 2 allegedly involved in theft, drug trafficking

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety is currently on the lookout for two individuals believed to be involved in theft and trafficking of a controlled substance.

According to the Department of Public Safety, they are asking for the the public's help in locating Fang Ye "Batu" and Yu Qiu Min for their alleged involvement in trafficking a controlled substance and theft, respectively.

Fang is currently facing charges of theft and trafficking and illegal possession of a controlled substance. His bail was set at $100,000. Meanwhile Yu is facing one charge of theft with her bail set at $10,000.

Last Nov. 15, Superior Court Judge Wesley Bogdan issued an arrest warrant for the two individuals. As of press time, there are still no updates on the whereabouts of the two individuals.

Anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of both individuals are encouraged to contact the Criminal Bureau of Investigation at (670) 664-9064 or 911.

For those who want to remain anonymous, you may call the CNMI Crime Stoppers Hotline at (670) 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest.

The Department of Public Safety has yet to confirm whether the individuals were involved in the recent discovery of a drug den in a Koblerville barracks where over 1,000 grams of methamphetamine were discovered.

Last Tuesday, Nov. 15, the Drug Enforcement Task Force seized 1,176 gross grams or 2.6 pounds of methamphetamine from a barracks in Koblerville, which had an estimated street value of $400,000.

DPS spokesman Dre Pangelinan said that Bogdan signed the search warrant at about 10am that day and it was executed at about 2:55pm. Upon securing the barracks, DPS said about 2.6 pounds of methamphetamine were discovered within the compound.

Roadside waving heralds onset of Education Month celebration

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Dozens of CNMI Public School System educators, students, administrators, support staff, and supporters held an Education Month roadside waving at the Garapan Fishing Base last Friday afternoon, festooning the Beach Road pathway with colorful signs while cars honked as they drove by.

At the same time, a roadside waving was held at Broadway on Tinian and at Pinatang Park on Rota.

Lenelle Bansil, a junior at Da'Ok Academy in Koblerville, said she came out to support educators "because they put all their hard work into teaching us– how to get our future ready. I just came out here to support my school because they've done everything for me to help me make sure that I graduate on time. I'm really glad that there's a lot of people that are out here supporting our education."

Hilda Rios, principal of Tanapag Middle School, said about that Friday's event is the kickoff rite for the celebration of Education Month. We always do this every year. It's so much fun to go out and do something exciting and fun and just engage with the community. It's nice to see that there's so much support out here for the teachers especially, and all the staff, not just at the school level, but up at the central office also because it takes a whole system to make education work for everyone."

Riya Nathrani, the 2021 State Teacher of the Year, who was at the roadside waving, said that Education Month "is really to celebrate teachers, counselors, school administrators, central office administrators, all the students for having education and just all the hard work that goes into the day in and day out of making things possible in the classroom. So, I think this really brings collaboration and camaraderie in our community. And we're also sharing it with the community so they get to see a snapshot of the PSS staff and how we kind of are working together to make education the best that could be in the Marianas."

Vinni Orsini, CNMI PSS Social Studies program manager, said at the event that he was there to celebrate education, which he believes is the islands' No. 1 resource. "We're strengthening it, we're growing it, and we're seeing people from the CNMI and all over the world making a change…and it all begins with education here at home. So, we're celebrating the successes that we've [achieved] and we're looking forward to the future."

A calendar of events for Education Month can be found on the CNMI Public School System's social media pages, including Facebook and Instagram, with the 34th Education Day/ Of the Year Recognition to be held this Wednesday, Nov. 23, at Saipan Southern High School from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

CNMI Public School System educators, students, administrators, support staff, and supporters display signs for Education Month in a roadside waving at the Garapan Fishing Base last Friday afternoon.

LEIGH GASES

ARMATECH
CCTV Installer and Repairer
Tel: (670) 234-8895 I Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

ART MAN
CORPORATION
SERVICES will be:
• Sewer Pumping
• Snake Wiring
• Portable Toilet Rental
• Portable Hand Wash Station
• Handling Recyclable Wastes

PMB 122 Box 10000 MP 96950, Lower Base
artmancorporation@gmail.com
Please Call: 234-8079 I 287-8079

Give thanks to ULTRA DEALS
$10 OFF CHARGER with unit purchase*
Choose the Samsung Galaxy S21 Ultra and pick your savings:
FREE Samsung Buds Live
WITH 30GB DATA + UNLIMITED SELECT SOCIAL MEDIA
OR
$150 OFF
UNLIMITED DATA INCLUDED!
ite.net itecnmi itecnmi
Terms and conditions apply. Available while supplies last. Advertised pricing available with 24-month term. Contract required. Subject to credit check. Discount only applicable to select chargers/adapters. See stores or visit ite.net for details.
PACIFICPOINTS
IT&E

TORRES

From Page 1

"good" so far.

Igitol said there were 807 who voted on Saipan, 58 on Tinian, and 69 on Rota on the first day of early voting, last Friday, for a total of 934 voters.

On Saturday, there were 978 who cast their votes on Saipan, 108 on Tinian, and 78 on Rota, for a total of 1,164 voters.

Yesterday, Torres and Sablan, accompanied by their spouses, some Cabinet members, and supporters who were mostly wearing red shirts, crossed Beach Road from the Republican Party's tent, which is located across the multi-purpose center, on their way to the CEC to vote at about 10:30am. At the time there was no queue of voters waiting to be checked for voter eligibility outside the multi-purpose center, but when the Torres-Sablan group arrived, it created a long line of voters.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, third from left, and his wife, first lady Diann Tudela Torres, pose for a group photo with Sen. Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan (R-Saipan) and Sablan's wife, Roca Q. Sablan, shortly after casting their votes for early voting at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday morning. Torres and Sablan, of the Republican Party, are squaring off with Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and his running mate, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, of the unified independent party, for the Nov. 25 runoff race. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

In an interview shortly after casting their votes, Torres and Sablan said they are feeling good as they have faith and confidence in the voters.

When asked about their strategy in the runoff race, Torres said they're doing the same thing that they've been doing all along—informing the community of what they've done and what they will continue to do.

Sablan said they're just spreading the word, showing what they're capable of and what they've been doing in the past in their leadership positions. The senator said they're also making people look forward to what's in store for them, and asking for their blessing to serve them in the next four years.

Torres-Sablan topped the three-way Nov. 8 general elections, but failed to gain majority votes, paving the way for the Nov. 25 runoff election with second placer, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and his running mate, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, of the unified independent team.

When asked about the endorsement of the Torres-Sablan tandem by former NMI Democratic Party chair Daniel O. Quitugua, Torres said yesterday that they're blessed that they have some key players like Quitugua of the Democratic Party endorsing them.

Torres said they thanked them, along with their supporters and families, for joining them, and that they are hoping see others follow the right path.

Quitugua announced his retirement from partisan politics last Tuesday, saying he wants to focus on his passion for the protection of people of Northern Marianas descent. The following day, Wednesday, Quitugua went to the Republican Party's headquarters to announce his support of Torres-Sablan in the runoff off race.

The Democratic Party's gubernatorial candidates, Reps. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) and Leila F. Staffler (D-Saipan) came in third place in the general elections.

With respect to Juan U. Maratita's endorsement, Torres said he and Sablan are fortunate to have Maratita, his family, and supporters joining them.

"That's an addition to our numbers. And I want to thank him again and with all those that came from the other parties to support us," he said.

Maratita, who ran as an independent candidate (not under the unified independent team), was defeated in the race for House of Representatives Precinct 5 seat.

Sablan said it's an honor to have both Quitugua and Maratita join them of their own free will.

"They've come and they've vowed to support us and bring their supporters. So it's a great thing, I really appreciate both of them for coming on board," Sablan said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

COCKFIGHTING

From Page 1

Manglona issued her decision last Thursday to dismiss with prejudice the lawsuit filed by Salas against the United States over the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, specifically section 12616, which ultimately prohibited cockfighting in the CNMI. Dismissal with prejudice means the case cannot be refiled.

Manglona's 15-page order accepted as true Salas' argument that cockfighting is a traditional local recreational activity that is also a quintessential "internal affair" that the federal government shouldn't intrude on.

However, after weighing all the facts, she determined that the federal interests served by Section 12616 of the AIA, which amended article 7 of the U.S. Code, subsection 2156 (7 U.S.C. § 2156), outweighs the alleged intrusion into CNMI local affairs.

"Plaintiff proposes that the CNMI has cultural and political interests in cockfighting, which the federal government is attempting to eradicate with colonialist overtones. The court accepts plaintiff's factual allegations as true; so, assuming that cockfighting is deeply entrenched in the CNMI's internal affairs, the question is whether that outweighs the federal interests. This is a legal issue such that if the court determines that the federal interest in banning cockfighting outweighs the degree of intrusion into the CNMI's internal affairs, the motion to dismiss must be granted," she said.

Manglona said that federal interests in regulating interstate commerce, preventing the spread of avian diseases, and ensuring the humane treatment of animals outweigh the degree of intrusion into the internal affairs of cockfighting.

"Therefore, the AIA dos not impermissibly intrude on the local affairs of the CNMI," she stated.

Salas has requested leave to amend if the motion to dismiss was granted because he stated that he could plead more facts regarding the importance of cockfighting in the CNMI. However, Manglona reiterated that weighing the federal interest to the degree of intrusion into the CNMI's local affairs is unnecessary.

"Plaintiff's proffer of providing more facts about how deeply entrenched cockfighting is the CNMI would not cure the deficiency. Such amendment would be futile because the federal interests in regulating interstate commerce, preventing the spread of avian flu, and ensuring the humane treatment of animals outweigh the degree of intrusion into the internal affairs of the CNMI as it relates to the tradition of cockfighting," the judge stated.

Salas intends to appeal the ruling, Horey said in an email. That appeal would go to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. In December 2021, that court affirmed a ruling of the U.S. District Court for the District of Guam that Congress has the authority to bar animal fighting throughout the United States, including in the U.S. territories. That case was brought by Guam-based cockfighting enthusiast Sedfrey Linsangan, who appealed a ruling by the U.S. District Court for the District of Guam that his claims were legally invalid, and that U.S. law bans cockfighting in Guam.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

NO GUN

From Page 1

lockdown at around 10am Friday so that teachers, with guidance from the Department of Public Safety, could search every student's belongings in case the rumors of one bringing a gun to school turned out to be true.

The MHS administration also worked with the Department of Public Safety to have officers on campus to further ensure the safety of its students.

According to MHS principal Jonathan Aguon, in the interest of safety, it was decided that a sweep of the entire campus be conducted to ensure that there was no weapon on campus.

"At 10:10am, we signaled for all classrooms to shelter in place. It was not a lockdown due to a threat. Instead, the shelter-in-place was to ensure that the sweep can be conducted properly without the interruption of the bell schedule. We informed our teachers before the sweep began. No weapon was found. No invasive body searches were conducted. DPS was present throughout the sweep for their guidance. The sweep ended with the all-clear given at 12:10pm," Aguon stated.

After the thorough investigation and sweep, MHS determined that the claims were just baseless rumors.

"MHS took the claim very seriously and acted swiftly, conducting an investigation. It was concluded that there was no immediate threat, and it was a baseless rumor that was misconstrued as it was being spread. Nevertheless, we consulted with the Department of Public Safety and our PSS leadership to ensure that we make the safest decisions," he said.

MHS thanks DPS for their partnership, the students for their compliance, and the school emergency team for thoroughly carrying out the sweep.

"We understand that this morning had a bit of anxiety in the air given a viral social media post about a weapon possibly being brought to our campus. We would like thank all students for your compliance with today's sweep. As the largest school in PSS, it took some time, but we ensured that it was thorough for your safety. We would also like to thank DPS for their partnership and thank our school emergency team for their diligence in the sweep. As a school, we need to continuously work together to keep our school safe," Aguon said.

The sweep was conducted after students took to social media last Thursday to warn others about another student possibly bringing a gun to school on Friday.

After seeing these posts on social media, the MHS administration quickly jumped into action and investigated every student who was circulating the information.

NMC

From Page 1

Nicholas, Atinisom, Sablan, and Duarte were awarded $1,000 each. Benavente, Nicholas, and Atinisom were given an additional $500 each from the Rotary. There were a total of 13 applicants this year.

The "Live Your Dream" program aims to improve the lives of women in the CNMI by providing financial assistance for their education, skills, support for their families, and or business ventures. The awardees have to be women who are in college, while also being the head of their household.

"It's a cash award because they don't need to necessarily spend it on school. It goes to a woman who is getting her undergraduate degree, [whether it's for an] associate's, a bachelor's, or even trade's degree. …It's not a scholarship. … We don't ask for an explanation of how you spent the money. … It's just to encourage women to still be able to stay in school," said SINMI president Maureen Sebangiol about the award.

Benavente, a full-time employee, mother, small business owner, and NMC student, said that her children are what drives her. "I can honestly say I don't know if I will feel this way, this inspiration, this motivation, without my kids…"

With the award, she said, "It's a cash award and I laughed because [Maureen Sebangiol] said you can use it to buy tires, and that the first thing I thought was, 'Well, my baby needs some new tires.' [But] it's mostly going to go to savings. Christmas is coming up and my two kids deserve a good Christmas every year."

When asked about winning the award, Benavente said, "Talking about your struggles and your challenges—it's not something I like to talk about because it's easier to have pride. It's easier to say…that I don't need help. I swallow that pride and I tell myself that my struggles and my challenges do not define me—they shape me to be a better person. So, I'm grateful for the award, very grateful."

Recent Marianas High School graduate, 18-year-old Angellyn Nicholas, who is now a freshman at NMC pursuing a nursing degree, said, "Right now, it's pretty tough and I'm so grateful for this wonderful opportunity from the Soroptimist award, because it showed me how hardship isn't everything—pain is temporary. I'm just very, very grateful to be a part of it…"

"I just wanted to share that pain is temporary and blessings will come," said Nicholas.

Atinisom, a ChaCha Ocean View Middle School librarian aide, who is majoring in education, rehabilitation, and human services at NMC, said, "When I got that call, I was really shocked because I was actually struggling with how I was going to pay for school this year. I wasn't able to qualify for a lot of the financial aids that were out there. So, it came as a blessing for me. …It felt like a miracle. …I'm just [going] straight to the finance officer, 'Here you go, here's my check.' The goal next year is to find another financial aid to pay for my last year. I feel blessed, really fortunate to be able to get it."

Sablan, 31-year-old U.S. Army reservist who is also a full-time student at NMC, said that winning the award was "surreal."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Info sought on successful, unsuccessful BOOST Program applicants

Reps. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) have sought information from the Department of Finance and the Department of Commerce about the administration's Building Optimism, Opportunities and Stability Together Program.

In related news, the Office of the Governor issued a "Rumor Control" advisory over the weekend where it said that rumors about Shayne Villanueva and Robert Travilla having received BOOST grant funds as a result of political involvement is false. Both Villanueva and Travilla are reportedly involved the campaign activities of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Manglona and Babauta, who chair the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee and the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee, respectively, asked Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig and Commerce Secretary Edward M. Deleon Guerrero for information on the BOOST program in a recent letter.

The BOOST Program is a project of the Office of the Governor and the Department of Commerce that aims to provide financial assistance to CNMI businesses and nonprofit organizations.

The lawmakers requested for the name of the entities/agencies/offices and principals that administer the BOOST Program and information as to its funding source and the names of all approved and disapproved applicants. Manglona and Babauta also inquired about the amounts awarded to all awardees of the program.

They gave Atalig and Deleon Guerrero until 10am today, Friday, to provide the information.

The lawmakers said following the receipt and review of the information, they will schedule a joint public hearing in late November 2022.

Manglona and Babauta did not indicate in their letter the specific reason why they need such information.

The Office of the Governor's "Rumor Control" advisory said: "There is a rumor circulating [in] social media that states that…Villanueva and…Travilla have received BOOST Grant Program funds as a result of political involvement. This is false.

"Gov. Ralph DLG Torres recently received letters from Mr. John Z. Arroyo, president and CEO of the Bank of Saipan, in response to his request for information on the matter to provide official clarification to the public.

"Mr. Shayne Villanueva has not submitted any BOOST Grant Program application, and Mr. Robert Travilla has not been awarded any BOOST Grant Program funds," it added. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Atalig says nothing to hide in BOOST Program, lawmakers' request for info forwarded to BOS

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig said yesterday that the request for information by Reps. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) about the administration's Building Optimism, Opportunities and Stability Together Program has already been forwarded to the Bank of Saipan, which is the administering authority for the program.

Atalig, in an interview, said he saw. Babauta's email Saturday asking about the BOOST documents so he had already a response letter to her and Manglona, informing them that he had already requested that information from BOS.

Hey said that BOS president and chief executive officer John Arroyo is off island and may be back early this week.

"As soon as I get it, I'll forward it up. There's nothing to hide. They are the administrators, they're the ones going through it. We provide the funding and they do the due diligence," he said.

Manglona and Babauta made the request in a letter last Tuesday to Atalig and Commerce Secretary Edward M. Deleon Guerrero.

In his letter to Manglona and Babauta dated Friday, Atalig said he and Deleon Guerrero "are off island at the moment."

Atalig said it is his understanding that a report will be generated from BOS.

"On behalf of myself and Secretary Deleon Guerrero, I will request that a copy of the report be provided to both of you," Atalig told the lawmakers in the letter.

Manglona and Babauta also asked for information as to the funding source for the BOOST Program and for the names of all approved and disapproved applicants.

Manglona and Babauta also inquired about the amounts awarded to all awardees of the program.

They gave Atalig and Deleon Guerrero no later than 10am Friday, Nov. 18, to provide the information.

The lawmakers said following the receipt and review of the information, they will schedule a joint public hearing in late November 2022.

Manglona and Babauta did not indicate in their letter the specific reason why they need such information.

The lawmakers wrote another letter to Atalig and Deleon Guerrero Friday, stating that they have not received a reply from them.

They requested Atalig and Deleon Guerrero to inform their committees by close of business that day, Friday, whether they intend to fully comply with these requests or whether subpoenas will be necessary.

That day, Friday, Atalig replied in a letter to the lawmakers. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Phone: (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6824 | www.marianas.edu

AGROFORESTRY CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR NMC-CREES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
NMC RFP 23-001

Northern Marianas College, Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services (CREES) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for Agroforestry Consultant Services. The specifications and Scope of Work package may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. P, commencing Friday, October 21, 2022 between the hours of 9:00-11:00 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Preproposal meeting is scheduled on Monday, November 7, 2022 at 09:00am – 10:00am, CNMI ChST via Zoom meeting room. Attendance is strongly recommended. **Zoom ID No. 959 331 4250.**

Proposal Packages: Due no later than 10:00 a.m., Monday, November 21, 2022, Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. P, Saipan, MP 96950. Article 7, **"Local Business Preference"**, as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local vendors in this procurement.

Proposers located outside of the CNMI: You may request a copy of the RFP via email to Christina Cruz (christina.cruz@marianas.edu).

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through the USDA-NIFA authorized under the Smith Lever Act, Section 3b & 3c, Award NO. NI19SLBCXXXXG055.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

/s/ Christina Cruz
NMC Procurement & Property Management Office

Attention CNMI Government Employees, Retirees and Surviving Spouses

It's Open Enrollment time

Open enrollment runs Monday, October 24 - Friday, December 09

Our goal is to provide you with access to the highest levels of care and support possible through our:

- Strong local presence, in partnership with Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.
- Comprehensive global resources and access to care
- 24/7 Member Service Support

Your health and safety are paramount.

- Visit our website listed below to view your Open Enrollment material and enrollment/change of status form to help you choose the best plan for you and your loved ones
- Open Enrollment support is available by phone and in-person

Current Members: If you're satisfied with your current plan and coverage, you DO NOT need to submit an enrollment form.

- New GHLI-CNMI Members MUST complete an enrollment form and submit to your respective Agency.
- For Open Enrollment inquiries, contact Pacifica locally at: **670-234-6267** Monday — Friday, 8 AM-5 PM
- For non-OE related inquiries, contact our Member Service Center 24/7 at: **800-231-7729**

Websites to help you choose a plan:

- Aetna International: **www.AetnaInternational.com/cnmi-ghli**
- CNMI Dept of Finance: **https://finance.gov.mp**
- Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.: **www.pacificains.com/ghlit**

Deliver your Form and any required documentation:

- Active employees: to your respective Agency or Department of Human Resources
- Retirees and surviving spouses: to Pacifica located in the Joeten Shopping Center, Insatto St., Susupe

Open enrollment runs Monday, October 24 - Friday, December 09, 2022.

AetnaInternational.com

1377557-01-01 (10/22)

aetna®

21 schools join Christmas in the Marianas fete

Twenty-one public and private schools have signed up to join the Marianas Visitors Authority's Christmas in the Marianas celebration, scheduled for Dec. 3, 10, 17, 2022, and Jan. 7, 2023, at Garapan Fishing Base on Saipan.

Participating schools will be Green Meadow School, Saipan Southern High School, Marianas High School, Mount Carmel School, Saipan Community School, Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School, Koblerville Elementary School, Da'ok Academy, Oleai Elementary School, Tanapag Middle School, Grace Christian Academy, Brilliant Star Montessori School, Kagman Elementary School, Northern Marianas International School, Agape Christian School, San Vicente Elementary School, Dandan Middle School, Chacha Ocean View Middle School, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, and Saipan International School.

With the enthusiastic participation of schools again, this year's activities will include Christmas caroling, skits, costumes, and student-decorated Christmas trees. Nine public registrants will participate in decorating a Mini Christmas Village at Garapan Fishing Base for a chance to win cash prizes. A Christmas float parade will also be held on Dec. 17 after sunset through downtown Garapan.

"We are very excited about the enthusiastic response we've received from the schools this year, and after several years of COVID, we're pleased to bring back Christmas in the Marianas for both our community and our visitors," said MVA acting managing director Judy C. Torres.

This year's holiday festival is once again organized in cooperation with the CNMI Public School System, private schools, PDM Promoters, and Pacific Development Inc.

The MVA will also have a light and sculpture display at Garapan Fishing Base to coincide with the festivities.

On Rota the MVA is partnering with the Rota Mayor's Office on a contest for the best decorated house. On Tinian a contest for best decorated building will be held in two categories: residential and business/government office, and a children's caroling and costume contest will be held.

For more information, contact MVA Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda at jaranda@mymarianas.com or (670) 664.3200/1. For Rota events, contact MVA Field Operations supervisor David Atalig at datalig@mymarianas.com or (670) 532.0327. On Tinian, contact MVA Field Operations supervisor Vida Borja at vborja@mymarianas.com or (670) 433.9365. ***(MVA)***

Limited business hours at Judiciary this week

In light of the gubernatorial runoff election on Nov. 25, 2022, the Judiciary has updated its hours of operation during the week of Nov. 20, 2022. The Judiciary will have limited business hours due to the annual professional development and employee recognition series on Saipan, Thanksgiving holiday, and runoff election.

Hours of operation for Guma' Hustisia, Kotten Tinian, and Centron Hustisia on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, respectively, will be as follows:

- Monday, Nov. 21: Closed for Professional Development Series
- Tuesday, Nov. 22: Closed for Professional Development Series
- Wednesday Nov, 23: Open for regular business hours
- Thursday, Nov.24: Closed for Thanksgiving Day
- Friday, Nov. 25: Closed for runoff election

While facilities are closed, Judiciary personnel may be teleworking or activated for emergency and essential services. Bail, family protection, emergency and time-sensitive hearings may be set as necessary. Please visit the Judiciary's website at www.nmijudiciary.gov for court information. ***(PR)***

Kilili says thank you

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) thanks the people of the Northern Mariana Islands for their support and vote of confidence on Election Day last week.

Sablan

"Andrea and I and our families are humbled by the people's support. And I am reenergized to work even harder in the 118th Congress," Sablan said.

Looking ahead to the runoff election for governor on Nov. 25, Sablan said he has always tried to work closely and cooperatively with the person voters choose.

"As a citizen, I am voting for change," he added. ***(PR)***

SBDC chief briefs Rotary on upcoming projects

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Small Business Development Center network director Nadine Deleon Guerrero, third from right, poses with some Rotary Club of Saipan officers at one of its latest meetings. Others in picture are, from left, club treasurer Charles Cepeda, club director Mary Grace Bautista, club president Wendell Posadas, club vice president Jessy Loomis, and club past president Curtis Dancoe. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Small Business Development Center network director Nadine Deleon Guerrero recently shared with the Rotary Club of Saipan the center's past and upcoming events, highlighting the SBDC's role in promoting entrepreneurship in the CNMI.

Speaking during the club's meeting last Nov. 11 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan, Deleon Guerrero highlighted the recent "SEED to Sail" event, in which eight businesses received a combined total of $70,000 in cash awards and prizes. That event saw the sponsorship of the CNMI Office of the Governor as well as donations from the Bank of Saipan, Saipan Renal Care, Priority Care, the Northern Marianas College, the University of Guam, Tan Holdings Corp., IT&E, Turnkey Solutions, KKMP, Docomo Pacific, Bank of Hawaii, Power 99, WSTCO and D&Q.

The latest event, a SBDC Business Night, was held last Thursday at the NMC Mango Terrace, during which 16 retail and four food vendors showcased their products and services. The event was for interested individuals not only purchase, but also speak and inquire from vendors, who are current SBDC clients.

Guerrero also discussed the upcoming SBDC-sponsored events and projects, which would be a mixture of different services, training opportunities, and SBDC-sponsored-events and projects SBDC clients as well as the public may look forward to in 2023. Among these is the Capital Access Fair on March 23, 2023. The event will host different lending institutions, government, and federal agencies. They will be presenting on how businesses on-island can avail of capital to help finance or expand their business.

Along with these events, SBDC is also helping individuals in the CNMI better understand and help apply for the BOOST program, which is a grant program. She explained how SBDC has been helping current and aspiring entrepreneurs write business plans and complete their application packages for consideration.

For current business owners who are not SBDC clients and are interested in signing up for free, visit the new client portal: https://marianas.ecenterdirect.com/signup. People may also call (670) 237-6888 for assistance.

Prior to assuming her current role as CNMI SBDC's network director, Deleon Guerrero served on the CNMI Cannabis Commission board as chairwoman for three years.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO UPDATE THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY FIRE SERVICE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-002-23

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to provide professional services in updating the CPA Fire Service Certification Program. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and or products that cannot be evaluate by cost alone (NMIAC § 40-50-225 (a)). The Scope of Work and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning November 07, 2022, upon payment of $100.00 in cash, cashier's check or certified check to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

Questions and/or clarifications may be directed in writing to Christopher S. Tenorio at chris.tenorio@cnmiports.com with copy to Frederick Pangelinan at fpangelinan @cnmiports.com. All questions and/or clarifications shall be received no later than November 21, 2022. CPA will not entertain questions and/or clarifications after November 21, 2022.

Proposals will be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport no later than 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, DECEMBER 07, 2022. Proposals received after the date/time indicated above will not be opened and will be returned to the Proposer.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

November 07, 2022

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055, SAIPAN, MP 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
EMAIL: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM | WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

Request for Proposals for: CPA Concession No. CRS-2022-01

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
"Car Rental Concession"
CPA-RFP-011-22

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) concession granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for a period of eighteen (18) months (contract to end on 05/31/2024) upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-011-22 is **October 12, 2022**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on November 22, 2022**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

DEVELOPMENT OF ECHO DOCK
PORT OF SAIPAN
CPA RFP NO. CPA-RFP-010-2022
(CPA CONCESSION NO. SEA 2022-01)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("Authority") is inviting qualified developers and their development teams to submit sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for the development of Echo Dock, which is situated north of the Port of Saipan. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the Authority because the Authority wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone. This RFP is being issued pursuant to NMIAC § 40-70-205.

The RFP Package is available beginning Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at the Authority's Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport upon payment of a non-refundable administrative fee of $200.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check, or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Other than this administrative fee, proposers are not required to submit a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Authority will hold a briefing for interested parties at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, September 16, 2022, to explain the Authority's development objectives, the RFP process, and to answer questions. The meeting will be held at the Authority's Seaport Conference Room, George Fleming Building. All potential applicants are encouraged to attend but it is not mandatory.

All proposers are requested to pay attention to the following significant dates and times:

Date RFP Package becomes available	August 31, 2022 (8:00 AM)
Date of RFP briefing meeting	September 16, 2022 (10:00 AM)
Deadline to submit Notice of Intent	September 28, 2022 (4:00 PM)
Deadline to submit Statement of Qualifications	October 13, 2022 (4:00 PM)
Notification of qualified applicants of the RFP	October 28, 2022
Deadline for RFP submission	November 30, 2022 (4:00 PM)

Qualified proposers shall submit their sealed proposals to the "CPA Evaluation Committee" and mark the outside cover of its submittal as follows: "RFP Proposal: Confidential - Development of the Echo Dock, Saipan (RFP-010-2022)." Five (5) hard copies and one electronic copy on CD, DVD, or flash drive of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. CHST, Wednesday, November 30, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened. The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted if sufficient justification exist that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of the CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date **8/26/2022**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NMC RFP 23-003

Construction of the New Student Center for the Northern Marianas College

The Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) office, Northern Marianas College, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the Construction of the New NMC Student Center. The RFP package will be available electronically on Monday, November 7, 2022. Interested proposers can email rfp23-003@marianas.edu. A non-refundable payment of one hundred dollars ($100.00) is required to obtain the electronic RFP Package.

Mandatory Preproposal Conference is scheduled on Monday, November 28, 2022, at 10:00am at the NMC Board of Regents Conference Room, Saipan Campus. Proposal Packages are due no later than **10:00 a.m., Friday, January 6, 2023, Chamorro Standard Time**, at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. P, Saipan, MP 96950. Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local vendors in this procurement.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than Friday, December 2, 2022 at 4:00pm(ChST) to Christina Cruz, Interim Procurement Manager, christina.cruz@marianas.edu or rfp23-003@marianas.edu.

This project is 100% Federally Funded, US Treasury listed bonding is required.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6824/23/22 | Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu
www.marianas.edu

NORTHERN MARIANAS
NMTECH
TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

AWARD CEREMONY

National Center for Construction Education and Research

AHLEI
AMERICAN HOTEL & LODGING
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE

PLEASE JOIN US AT GARAPAN CENTRAL PARK ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2022 AT 5:30 PM

AN OPENING SPECIAL FOR YOU

Take a break with our local resident opening special valid until December 22, 2022.

Enjoy a special room rate of $180 plus tax per room per night inclusive of:

- Breakfast for two people
- Room upgrade
- 3:00 PM late check out
- 25% discount on all food and beverage (excluding alcoholic beverage)

Special rate is available until December 22, 2022. Local ID is required upon check in. Subject to availability.

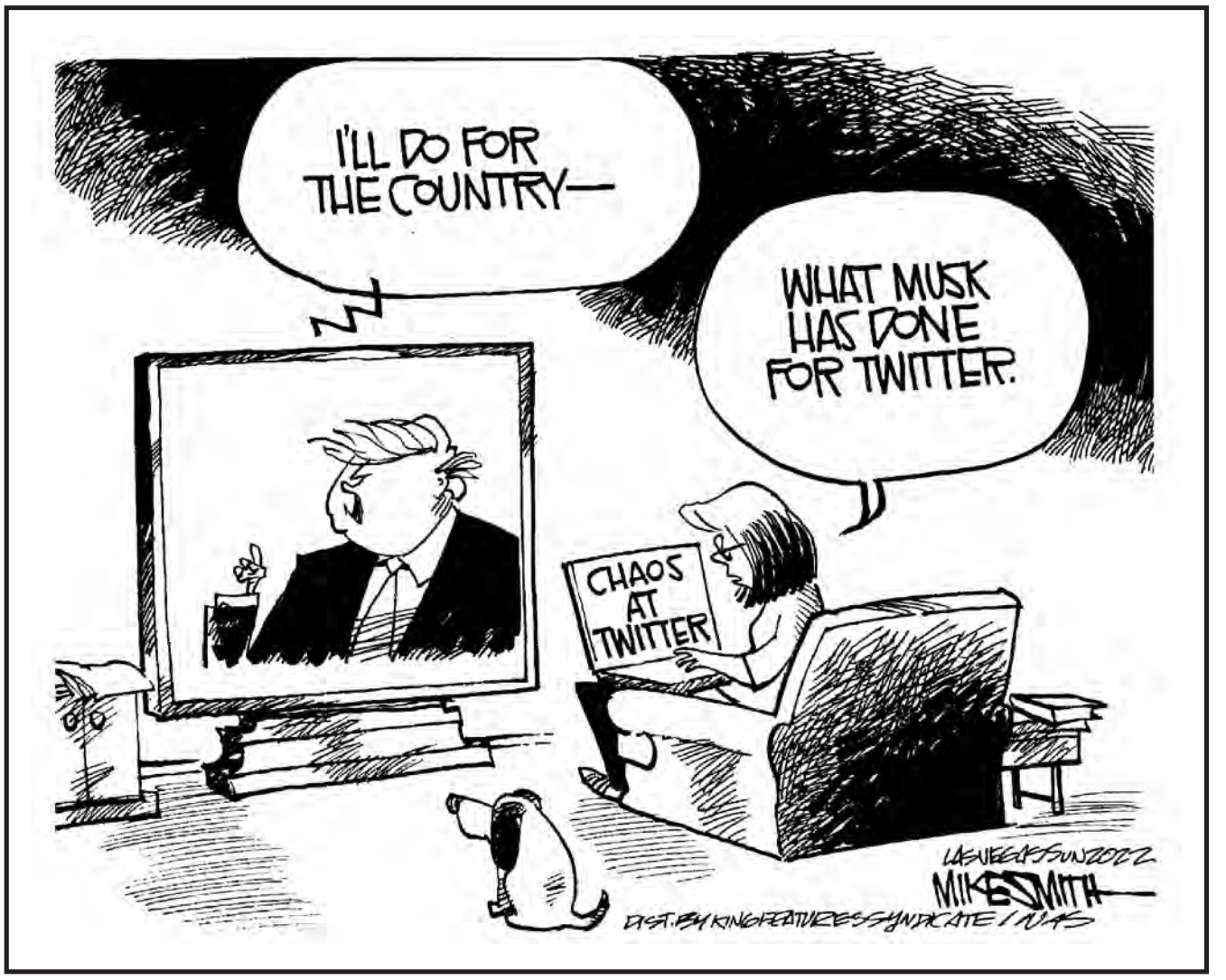
Book Now

Call 670 234 6411 or
Email to reservations.CPRSaipan@ihg.com

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan | saipan.crowneplaza.com

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXII, Issue No. 231
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association


I'LL DO FOR THE COUNTRY—
WHAT MUSK HAS DONE FOR TWITTER.
CHAOS AT TWITTER
LAS VEGAS SUN 2022
MIKE SMITH
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE / IAS

EDITORIAL

Nancy Pelosi improved our lives. Her successor will investigate Hunter Biden's laptop

The poor schmo who would do anything to follow Nancy Pelosi as House speaker is her opposite in ways that have nothing to do with ideology: In his lack of consistency, lack of discipline and lack of courage, Rep. Kevin McCarthy falls so far short of his fellow Californian's standards that it feels silly to even compare the two. No wonder he couldn't bring himself to show up and listen to her gorgeously patriotic Thursday resignation speech.

Pelosi, who at 82 is stepping down from leading the House Democrats after two decades, has all of the traits that our most powerful public servants typically share, including an unusually hardy constitution and work ethic and high tolerance for political pain.

But the first female speaker, and the first speaker to grab the gavel a second time since Sam Rayburn did so in 1955, is also singular: Without her, there would have been no Affordable Care Act. Without her, would there be even one politician who never curses, in either public or private?

President Joe Biden called her "the most consequential

See NANCY on Next Page

Nancy Pelosi will be a hard act to follow

By MATTHEW YGLESIAS
Bloomberg Opinion

Matthew Yglesias is a columnist for Bloomberg Opinion*. A co-founder of and former columnist for Vox, he writes the* Slow Boring *blog and newsletter. He is author, most recently, of* One Billion Americans.

Nancy Pelosi steps down as the most accomplished congressional leader of her era, and probably the most successful House speaker of all time in terms of legislative impact. But if there was a flaw in her tenure, it's the one revealed as she announced her plans to step aside: House Democrats will now be led by people with little meaningful experience or national profile.

This is in contrast to the recent musical chairs among House Republicans. When John Boehner took over as speaker in 2011, he'd already been the No. 2 person in the Republican leadership. When he stepped aside in 2015 he was replaced by Paul Ryan, the main architect of Boehner-era GOP policy priorities and a former vice presidential candidate. When Ryan, in turn, stepped down in 2019, he was replaced as GOP leader by Kevin McCarthy, who'd been the No. 2 guy under both Ryan and Boehner.

Representative Hakeem Jeffries, though seen for years as the heir apparent, is the fourth-ranking House Democrat—not No. 2—and has never chaired a committee.

The problem isn't that he's the wrong choice to be Pelosi's successor. He's the obvious choice, even the correct one. But it is a problem for House Democrats that the correct choice is someone who hasn't played a major role in legislative strategy, policy development, fundraising or public communication. The problem is that the best option available is a bit underexperienced because the people higher up in the leadership hierarchy are way too old. If Pelosi had stepped down after the 2010 midterms, House Majority Whip James Clyburn could conceivably have stepped up at age 70 and become the first Black speaker after the 2018 midterms. Then he, rather than Pelosi, would be stepping down today in favor of a younger leader who'd served in the No. 2 or No. 3 spot.

But because Pelosi wanted to stay on after the thumping of 2010—and again after the disappointment of 2012, and again after the further losses of 2014—Clyburn and House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer hung around, too.

During this extended period of gerontocracy, multiple heirs apparent left the House for greener pastures. Rahm Emanuel became White House Chief of Staff and then Mayor of Chicago. Chris Van Hollen became a senator. Xavier Becerra became attorney general of California and then Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Meanwhile, Pelosi knew that her continued leadership was controversial—that many people thought a new leader without baggage would be electorally advantageous. This encouraged her to engage in what amounted to coup-proofing behavior, trying to make sure that nobody in the younger ranks became sufficiently prominent or powerful to challenge her. That worked on its own terms—she is an extremely shrewd tactician—but only exacerbated the problem that, sooner or later, a successor would be necessary.

Jeffries, of course, may end up excelling despite a relative lack of experience. And adding a fresh face to the Democratic Party's broader national leadership will be a welcome development.

But House Democrats ought to put in place structural reforms to ensure that more members Jeffries' age will have the ability to take on more substantive responsibility before reaching the top ranks of leadership. The most natural way to achieve this would have been for the Pelosi/Hoyer/Clyburn troika to simply act with a little more consideration for the future and a little less exaggerated sense of their own indispensability.

But given the failure of that approach, it's time to consider the kind of term limits that are in place on the GOP side. House Republicans simply cap the number of years that a person can linger as a committee chair or caucus leader. This does carry certain costs—forcing members to run against each other to lead committees and encouraging early retirement of experienced members. But it also ensures that young and ambitious members have opportunities on a regular basis, and that there is a constant forward conveyor belt of members gaining more experience and prominence. And it means that Republicans are able to recover from electoral defeat by rolling out some fresh new leaders not associated by the public with any past failures.

In a tribute to Pelosi, former Obama adviser David Axelrod called her "one of the most skillful, durable, and accomplished legislative leaders in American history." It's all true. And part of the reason is that she benefited from having served lower-level leadership jobs. Part of her legacy ought to be making sure that no one else has quite as long a career at the very top as she did.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Denying economic reality doesn't help struggling Americans

By E.J. ANTONI
The Heritage Foundation

E. J. Antoni is a research fellow in Regional Economics at The Heritage Foundation's Center for Data Analysis and a senior fellow at Committee to Unleash Prosperity.

Polls show economic concerns were dominant for many Americans this election season. Unfortunately, voters couldn't always count on getting accurate reporting about these issues.

Consider a Washington Post article titled "7 ways a recession could be good for you financially." A closer look at these seven claims reveals just how wrong—or at least highly misleading—financial reporting can be:

1. "Housing prices may finally come down to reasonable levels."

This is a verbal sleight of hand. Just because home prices go down does not mean homes are more affordable. Monthly payments for mortgages are increasing even as home prices fall because interest rates are rising so fast. People who have seen their incomes eroded by inflation are also finding homes unaffordable, even at reduced prices. Home affordability has fallen 33 percent since January 2021.

For existing homeowners, they now have the threat of being underwater on their mortgages if their home values decline below their outstanding loan balance. Where is the silver lining?

2. "Savings rates are up."

Savings rates are not up, as the article claims; they have totally collapsed. Monthly savings from January 2021 to today have plummeted 16.9 percentage points, which is an 85% decline. Claiming savings rates are up is not deceptive but demonstrably false.

3. "I bonds inflation rate might go even higher."

I bonds are government securities, which pay an interest rate that is partly dependent on inflation. They do not automatically pay more in a recession. When the rate on an I bond goes higher, it is not a good sign, but a terrible one – it means inflation is getting even worse. While an investor receives a return slightly better than inflation on this particular investment, that is little consolation for all the other losses imposed by inflation. I bonds are merely a minor hedge against inflation, not a path to wealth.

4. "The dollar is king."

The strength of the dollar relative to other currencies does little to help the vast majority of Americans who cannot afford to travel overseas as the article advises you to do. Most Americans have been so crushed by inflation that gallivanting around the world is not exactly within their budget. If your dollars cannot get you by at home, what good is it that the dollar goes further abroad?

5. "Unemployment is still relatively low."

Unemployment is relatively low now, but it will soon get worse as businesses continue layoffs and stop hiring. Virtually every economic indicator is pointing to another contraction in the economy. Businesses will be unable to sustain current economic output, and that translates into higher unemployment.

6. "Your used car is worth more."

Yes, you can sell your used car for more, but then what will you drive? The lunacy here is unbelievable. In the very next paragraph, the article acknowledges that new car prices have gone up even faster in the last year than used car prices. That means trading up to a new car is even less affordable than before. The cognitive dissonance is astounding – the article manages to argue for and against the same thing in a mere three sentences.

Additionally, states like Virginia charge annual property taxes on vehicles. Even though your car is older with more miles on it, your taxes have increased because the state says it's worth more. What a deal!

7. "Student loan forgiveness is coming."

It remains to be seen whether the Biden administration's unconstitutional student loan handout will actually happen, with multiple legal challenges already filed and more likely on the way. At least one court has already placed an injunction on the scheme, and another has ruled it unconstitutional with the administration appealing both.

However, if the handouts ultimately evade the constitutional challenges, they will exacerbate the underlying economic problems fueling inflation and high college tuition. Regardless, how is a political handout one of the ways that a recession is good for you?

The Washington Post is dead wrong about the alleged benefits of a recession, but at least they are one step ahead of the White House. Admitting you have a problem is the first step in recovery, and the Biden administration is still in bitter denial about the recession it is overseeing.

NANCY

From Page 8

speaker in our history."

Somehow, with only a five-seat majority, she kept her caucus together to push through bills on pandemic aid, infrastructure and the production of semiconductor chips. While wielding power as well as any lawmaker ever has, her work was always for something, and that something was improving our lives.

Under her leadership, Congress finally cut prescription drug costs and passed historic climate legislation. In contrast, what House Republicans hope to achieve with only narrow control is a thorough look into Hunter Biden's laptop. And into Pelosi's own supposedly unfair treatment of the pro-Trump mob that wanted to kill her.

Both chronically underestimated and uniquely vilified in cycle after cycle, she stood up to President Donald Trump—tearing up her copy of his 2020 State of the Union address, which she called a "manifesto of mistruths," and telling him in a White House meeting that with him, "all roads lead to Putin."

She also stood up to her own party, knowing how hard impeachment would be on the country. As a result, she pursued that option, twice, only when she felt that to do otherwise would be even more damaging.

As insurrectionists trashed what she rightly calls the temple of our democracy on Jan. 6, hoping to find and attack her, she took charge, working to secure both the building and everything that it represents.

Her service, which she'll continue in Congress but not in a leadership position, has cost her far more than it should have. Yet after her husband was nearly killed by a delusional, Trump-worshiping intruder who broke into their home yelling, "Where's Nancy?" last month, some Republican colleagues were so lacking in humanity that they joked and invented conspiracy theories about the attack.

Minority Whip Steve Scalise, who remembers how supportive Pelosi was of him when he was shot in 2017, was not among them. He stood up and applauded when Pelosi mentioned her husband in her resignation speech.

Nancy D'Alesandro Pelosi, of Baltimore, where her father was elected to Congress and then became mayor, grew up in the family business. In San Francisco, she went from homemaking mother of five to fund-raising powerhouse and later, to state Democratic chair and House speaker.

While others saw the imagined "red wave" of GOP dominance in this month's midterms as inevitable, she held to her usual refusal to "cede one grain of sand" before absolutely necessary. We won't see her like again, and won't forget what she achieved.

© 2022 The Sacramento Bee

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please, Arnold, voters deserve the truth

Why is Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios continuing to hide the truth about his health from the voters of the CNMI? After losing to Gov. Ralph Torres in last week's election, Mr. Palacios is again asking for your vote in the upcoming runoff election. Incredibly, he is running on the slogan, "Rebuilding Trust." Perhaps he should look in a mirror first and ask himself why voters should trust him when he continues to deceive them about a number of things, including the important issue of his health. Voters deserve to know if he is truly healthy and has the stamina and endurance to execute the duties of the office he seeks.

We all know that Mr. Palacios was evacuated to Hawaii in June of this year. He then spent two weeks in the intensive care unit before being discharged to outpatient care. In total, Palacios was off-island under medical care for more than 40 days. While he was away, he wasn't doing any work for the Commonwealth. This was three months ago.

Palacios' emergency evacuation was ordered and organized by Gov. Torres and involved the U.S. Department of Defense and a specialized military aircraft. Palacios should be thankful that Gov. Torres has cultivated a relationship with the area's top military officials and moved quickly to provide a lifesaving evacuation. At the time, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muna said that Palacios was evacuated because he needed "a high level of care that is not available here in the CNMI or Guam."

When Palacios returned to island he could have been honest and told voters what is really going on with his health, but instead he chose to evade the truth or outright lie repeatedly over the next months. Most everyone has heard that he had a heart attack.

Even if voters believe such lies that his long hospitalization in the ICU was due to back pain, it still raises significant issues. Palacios was hospitalized for over 40 days because, according to him, he sat on a "very uncomfortable" chair. The work of the governor is exhausting and requires stamina and vigor. How can the people of the CNMI expect Palacios to represent the CNMI in meetings that might take place in Washington, D.C., other parts of the continental United States, or in foreign countries? Representing the CNMI is a crucial part of the job of the governor, but those trips require long travel that Palacios simply cannot do given his admitted history of "back problems."

We are early in a global conflict or war, Poland was struck by Russia last week, we are a primary target in the eastern theater, the U.S. just scrambled fighters to the Marianas, our most trusted friends are trying to topple the U.S. dollar, so please, for the sake of our children here, STOP the lies and tell the voters what really happened. Before you ask for our vote, we call on you to release medical records related to your stay in the ICU and to definitively state that you did not have a cardiac incident so that we can know if you are fit enough to serve as governor and have the decency to tell the truth.

No one has ever heard of a candidate for governor, anywhere, changing parties the day before voting begins and voters deserve to know your platform, mixed agendas, Cabinet and department heads, what are your plans the first 100 days, and what positions you've offered the losing Democrats and what pray tell is their personal and political agendas. This is not intended to be sarcastic, but voters deserve the truth.

Ron Hodges
via email

A gesture of thanks

It would be appropriate for the CNMI House and the Senate to send a resolution of appreciation to President Joe Biden and the U.S. Congress for all the funds they have sent our way over the last four years to help cover our losses from Super Typhoon Yutu and the COVID-19 pandemic.

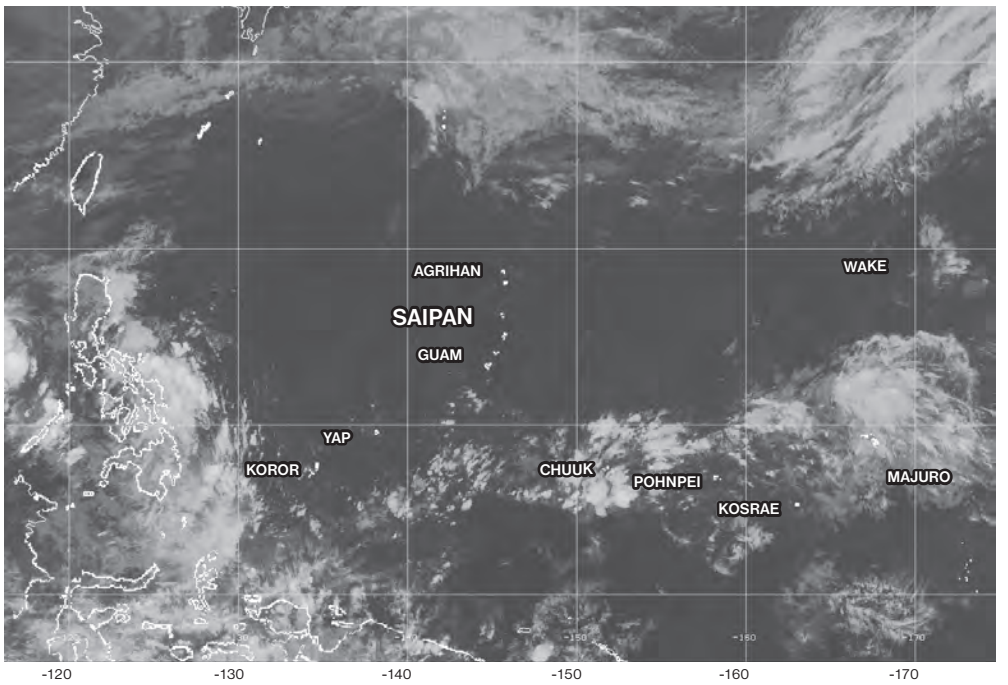
Don Farrell
Marpo Heights, Tinian

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
87° 76°	87° 76°	87° 76°	87° 76°	86° 76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:03 AM, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tranquil conditions dominate the area, with the radar imagery showing isolated showers crossing the region with most of relatively shallow depth (lighter/brief rainfall amounts). The buoys show nearshore wave heights of 5 to 6 feet, with a water temperature of 85 degrees.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:21 AM	5:43 PM
Tuesday	6:21 AM	5:43 PM
Wednesday	6:22 AM	5:43 PM
Thursday	6:23 AM	5:43 PM
Friday	6:23 AM	5:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:28 AM	3:36 PM	-
Tuesday	4:22 AM	4:17 PM	-
Wednesday	5:19 AM	5:03 PM	-
Thursday	6:21 AM	5:55 PM	-
Friday	7:27 AM	6:53 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	68° / 61°
Beijing	Sunny	56° / 34°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 61°
Honolulu	Showers	84° / 74°
London	Mostly Sunny	39° / 36°
Los Angeles	Sunny	77° / 47°
Manila	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	79° / 57°
Miami	Showers	78° / 74°
New York	Cloudy	50° / 46°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	55° / 41°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	41° / 34°
Busan	Sunny	46° / 32°
Rome	Showers	55° / 37°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°
San Francisco	Sunny	61° / 48°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	37° / 21°
Tokyo	Cloudy	46° / 37°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	51° / 45°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
5:47 AM	High Tide	1.45
11:21 AM	Low Tide	0.60
5:25 PM	High Tide	1.82
-	-	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	7:45AM	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau
OZ624/701	3:40PM	10:35AM+1	3,6 via Incheon

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

OZ624	3:40PM	7:40PM	3, 6
TW308	4:30PM	8:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
OZ704/623	11:50PM	2:40PM+1	2, 5 via Incheon

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ623	9:00AM	2:40PM	3, 6
TW307	10:00AM	3:30PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.	

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	

SAIPAN TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.	

GUAM TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

TOP 10 REASONS TO LEARN MARTIAL ARTS

If you're considering martial arts either for yourself or your child, it's a great choice! There are so many benefits to both your physical and mental health. But it can be tough to commit to something new. That's why we put together this guide with 10 reasons you should learn martial arts. Check it out below.

INCREASED CONFIDENCE

Increased confidence is something that martial artists of all ages enjoy. Practicing, improving, and succeeding at a skill improves self-image and gives participants confidence that they can succeed in other areas and ventures.

FULL BODY WORKOUT

The consistent practice has shown to increase overall mobility, improve your body's pressure response, and increase muscle. Because so many martial arts involve repeat muscular actions over time, you'll build strength and burn fat.

BETTER COORDINATION

All martial arts require spacial awareness and coordinating movement with another person. All of these factors improve the coordination and awareness of the participant's body as well as the people and objects around them.

INCREASED FLEXIBILITY

Repetitive movements like high kicks, low stances, fancy footwork, and ground maneuvering improve flexibility and mobility which will benefit your overall health. Did you know that flexibility has many health benefits? Some of them include: Improved posture, Better freedom of movement, Reduced muscle soreness and tension, Improved relaxation of mind and body, and Reduced risk of injury

SELF DEFENSE SKILLS

According to recent data, an aggravated assault occurs every 43 seconds in the United States. Martial arts can prepare practitioners to defend themselves in life-threatening and dangerous situations.

LOWER BLOOD PRESSURE AND HEART RATE

Participants in martial arts have been shown to have lower blood pressure and heart rates. But that's not all. Because of its similarity to H.I.I.T. (high intensity interval training), martial arts can improve overall heart health, lower cholesterol, and provide more regulated blood sugar and insulin levels. Martial artists enjoy all the physical benefits of regular exercise without having to run on a treadmill or lift weights. It's a great option to improve your health.

IMPROVE MENTAL STAMINA

Recent research showed that aerobic exercise (like martial arts) actually produced a physical change in the brain that promotes better memory and learning skills. The same study observed that a new case of dementia is observed every four seconds globally.

IMPROVED SOCIAL SKILLS

You're working alongside people with the same goals as you, learningand growing together. This is especially beneficial for children. In martial arts classes, they'll be able to learn how to resolve conflicts, make new friends, and show compassion.

DEVELOP SELF DISCIPLINE

By attending martial arts classes you'll become accustomed to direction and structure. In this environment you have to pay attention to the task at hand and rid your mind of distractions. It's also crucial to realize that achieving your martial arts goals depends on you. No one else can do it for you. This promotes self-reliance and independence!

STRESS RELIEF

Did you know that practicing martial arts can help relieve stress? Often this is accomplished by focusing on the present and things you can control. Many forms of martial arts also emphasize being in complete control of your breathing and thoughts. When you do this, you're learning a skill that can be applied throughout all areas of life. When you're more focused and confident and your thoughts are clearer, you'll relieve yourself of stress in so many other parts of life too.

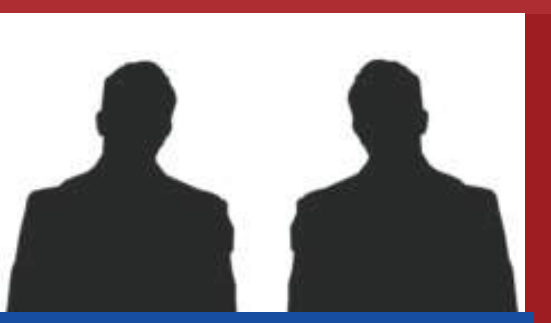
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

FIT TO LEAD

WHO IS THE BETTER TEAM TO LEAD THE CNMI?

TORRES-SABLAN

HERE ARE THE FACTS



PALACIOS-APATANG

ON ENERGY AND UTILITIES

- **Invested $47.8 million for improved water distribution systems, rehabilitated water supplies, wastewater upgrades, and gains toward 24 hour drinking water on Saipan.**
- **Became the first administration in CNMI history to achieve the CNMI renewable portfolio standard of 20%.**
- **Secured the first new generator for the Saipan Power Plant since 1991, which will lower rates in the long run.**
- **Led efforts to secure solar power for schools, homes, businesses, and government offices.**
- **Vinnie Sablan has 15 years of experience in CUC and BECQ as a laboratory specialist.**

NO PLANS

- **Official AD platform is absent of any concrete plans or vision for energy and utilities.**
- **Arnold Palacios did not provide any meaningful contribution in making progress on utilities and water for the CNMI as Lt. Governor.**
- **Arnold Palacios mostly not available during meetings on these matters, even when invited.**

THERE IS NO DEBATE.

THERE IS ONLY ONE CHOICE DURING THIS RUNOFF ELECTION.

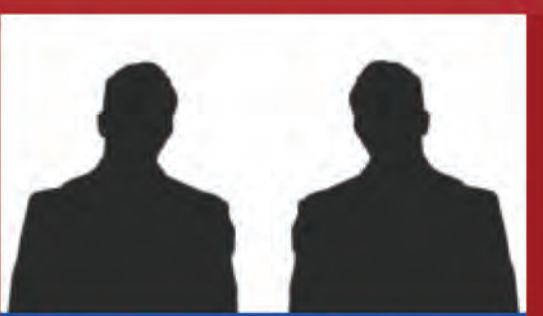
#AnytimeAnywhere

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Torres - Sablan, Zerlyn Taimanao, Treasurer

WHO IS THE BETTER TEAM TO LEAD THE CNMI?

TORRES-SABLAN

HERE ARE THE FACTS



PALACIOS-APATANG

ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC LANDS

- Created the Governor's Environmental Council to formulate policy initiatives and community activities to encourage environmental protection.
- Created the Universal Garbage Collection Task Force to efficiently dispose waste and avoid illegal dumping in the CNMI.
- Secured funding to complete Kagman Watershed Project and initiated work on Garapan and Laolao Watershed Projects, as well as Tinian and Rota Watershed Projects.
- Led acquisition of solar powered energy for PSS, CHCC, Garapan Public Market, and Military Affairs Office.
- Issued the first 350 homestead lots in 15 years to NMDs.

NO PLANS

- Official AD platform is absent of any concrete plans or vision for the environmental protection or public land management.
- Arnold Palacios mostly not at the office during meetings on these issues, even when invited.

THERE IS NO DEBATE.

THERE IS ONLY ONE CHOICE DURING THIS RUNOFF ELECTION.

#AnytimeAnywhere

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Torres - Sablan, Zerlyn Taimanao, Treasurer

Business

Bravo Kitchen & Bar opens in the heart of Garapan

MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A new restaurant that serves mouth-watering local food and plays soothing music has opened in the heart of Garapan.

Bravo Kitchen & Bar swung open its doors recently and owner Adrian Ruan said he entered the restaurant business due to the lack of quality restaurants that promote local food on Saipan.

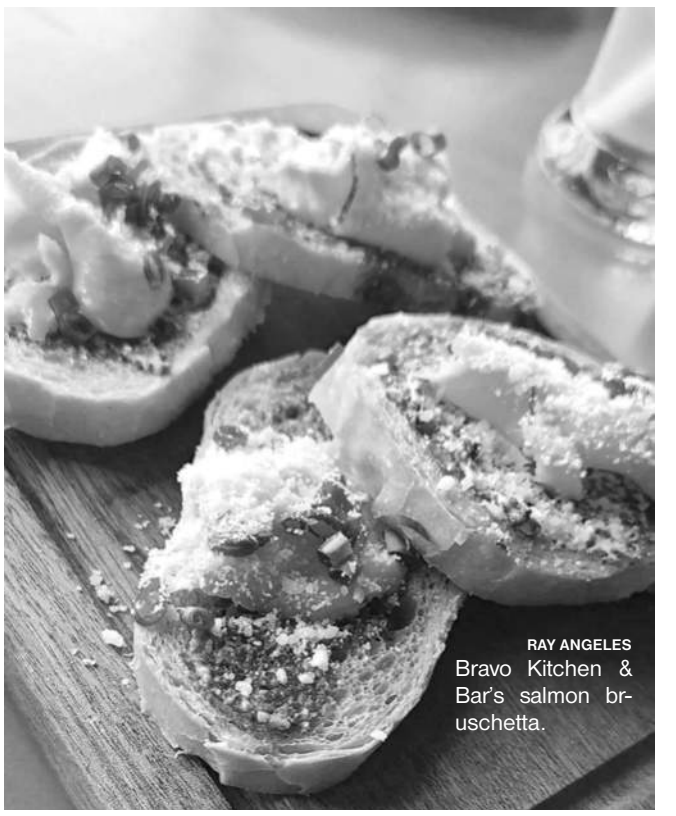
"For Saipan, many restaurants are closed. I personally think that there is no good restaurant that can reflect Saipan. After research by our team, the idea was formed around March 2022 then it took five months of hard work to create Bravo!" he said.

Ruan said unlike other restaurants on Saipan, Bravo Kitchen & Bar also incorporates a bar concept to its operations so customers don't only dine in style but kick back and relax at the same time.

"The difference between us and others lies in our philosophy. We want to provide a different environment for the locals, provide a spacious and comfortable space atmosphere, and enjoy music while dining. I prefer to call it a music restaurant. If you are happy, you can also come to the stage to sing a song and dine in joy, not so rigid, just eat for the sake of eating."

Asked why he opened a business in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ruan said it all boils down to believing in the CNMI and its people.

Bravo Kitchen & Bar is located across Cha Cafe along Beach Road in Garapan. MARK RABAGO



RAY ANGELES
Bravo Kitchen & Bar's salmon bruschetta.

RAY ANGELES
Bravo Kitchen & Bar's seafood penne pasta.

"First of all, we believe in the CNMI government and the people of the CNMI. We are willing to stay in the CNMI and stick to the CNMI with everyone. The CNMI is our second home!" he said.

So far, Bravo Kitchen & Bar's bestsellers have been its angus beef and black hamburger.

It also serves lip-smacking Western dishes with a local twist like braised brisket, teppan black pepper beef steak, marinated short ribs, deep fried calamari, crab rangoon, fruity sweet and sour chicken, oven baked cornish hen, wasabi prawn, hawaiian poke, and various pasta dishes, among others.

"We focus on local food and we only choose the best ingredients," said Ruan.

Bravo Kitchen & Bar currently can accommodate 80 dine-in customers. It's open from 11am to 2pm and 5pm to 9pm every day. The bar can also be extended by another two hours until 11pm.

It's located across Cha Cafe along Beach Road in Garapan. For more information or to make reservations, call Bravo Kitchen & Bar at (670) 488-1818 or follow their Facebook page.

Public safety accounts urge caution on Twitter after changes

As Twitter became knotted with parody accounts and turmoil, Rachel Terlep, who runs an account for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources that intersperses cheeky banter with wildfire and weather warnings, watched with equal parts trepidation and fascination.

"It kind of feels like a supernova moment right now — a big, bright flash before it all goes away," she said.

So the department stepped into the fray, taking advantage of the moment with some of its signature humor. "Update: The Twitter wildfire is 44 billion acres and 0% contained," they posted.

But under the joke, it linked to a thread that gave helpful tips about how to review a handle to see if it's real. Some of the suggestions included looking at how old the account is and checking to see if the public safety agency's website links to the profile.

It underscored the challenge for the people tasked with getting public safety information out to communities. Now, they don't only have to get information out quickly. On the new Twitter, they also have to convince people they are actually the authorities.

Government agencies, especially those tasked with sending messages during emergencies, have embraced Twitter for its efficiency and scope. Getting accurate information from authorities during disasters is often a matter of life or death. For example, the first reports this week of a deadly shooting at the University of Virginia came from the college's Twitter accounts that urged students to shelter in place.

Disasters also provide fertile ground for false information to spread online. Researchers like Jun Zhuang, a professor at the University of Buffalo who studies how false information spreads during natural disasters, say emergencies create a "perfect storm" for rumors, but that government accounts have also played a crucial role in batting them down.

During Hurricane Harvey in 2017, for example, an online rumor spread that officials were checking people's immigration status at storm shelters, potentially dissuading people from seeking safety there. However, crisis communication researchers have also found that the city's mayor reassured residents and helped the community pull together with a constant stream of Twitter messages. ***(AP)***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Tesla recalls 300K vehicles over taillight software glitch

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tesla is recalling more than 300,000 vehicles in the U.S. because a software glitch can make taillights go off intermittently, increasing the risk of a collision. Tesla said in documents posted Saturday by the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that the glitch may affect one or both taillights on certain Model 3 and Model Y vehicles. Brake lamps, backup lamps and turn signal lamps are not affected by the software problem, the company said. The automaker said it is releasing an online software update that will fix the problem. The recall covers certain 2020 to 2023 Model Y SUVs and 2023 Model 3 sedans. That amounts to potentially 321,628 vehicles. Tesla became aware of the problem last month after receiving complaints, primarily from customers outside the U.S., that their vehicle taillamps were not illuminating. The company completed an investigation into the problem earlier this month.

Ex-CFO says Trump kids raised pay after learning of scheme

NEW YORK (AP)—How did Donald Trump's oldest sons—entrusted to run his company when he became president—react when they learned that a top executive was scheming to dodge taxes on lavish corporate perks? They gave him a raise, according to testimony Friday at the Trump Organization's criminal tax fraud trial. Allen Weisselberg, the company's longtime chief financial officer, testified that Eric Trump raised his pay $200,000 after an internal audit spurred by Trump's 2016 election found that he'd been reducing his salary and bonuses by the cost of the perks. The raises boosted Weisselberg's annual pay to $1.14 million, extra cash he said he used to pay for things Trump and the company previously had: Manhattan apartment rent, Mercedes-Benz cars for him and his wife, his grandchildren's school tuition, and more. The company continues to pay Weisselberg $640,000 in salary and $500,000 in holiday bonuses and punished him only nominally after his arrest in July 2021, reassigning him to senior adviser and moving his Trump Tower office. He's now on paid leave.

VP Harris meets with China's Xi in bid to 'keep lines open'

BANGKOK (AP)—U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris spoke briefly with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Saturday in another step toward keeping lines of communication open between the two biggest economies. Harris and Xi exchanged remarks Saturday while heading into a closed-door meeting at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum's summit in Bangkok. "I greeted President Xi before the APEC Leaders Retreat," Harris wrote on Twitter. "I noted a key message that President Biden emphasized in his November 14 meeting with President Xi: we must maintain open lines of communication to responsibly manage the competition between our countries." Their exchange closely echoed Biden's comment to Xi at an meeting between the two leaders earlier in the week about China and the U.S. keeping lines of communication open.

Fishing, farming, and ranching is an important source of food and nutritional security throughout the Marianas. For many, it is a source of income.

Such practices have been passed on from generation to generation and is an important part of our culture and indigeneity. Fishing, farming and ranching create important ties between families and individuals as well as strengthening ties to our environment.

The BOOST Fishers, Farmers and Ranchers program is designed to promote food and nutritional security, protect and promote traditional cultural practices, as well as to diversify and revitalize the economy for those engaged in commercial activity.

BOOST funds are extended to fishers, farmers, and ranchers who produce for sale and trade. A BOOST subsistence stimulus up to $500 is available for applicants who fish, farm or ranch for personal consumption.

BOOST Fishers Farmers Ranchers PROGRAM

Terms and conditions apply. Subject to the availability of funds.

FAQs: HOW DO YOU QUALIFY?

Applicants for **subsistence stimulus** up to $500 must provide evidence of fishing, farming, or ranching activities (video, photos, letters of reference, or other form of testimonial).

Applicants applying for BOOST funds for **commercial sale and trade** must submit a Cover Letter, Copy of Business License, Letter of Compliance (i.e., Tax Clearance), Business Profile, List of Products and Services, and a short Business Plan (no finances required). Corporations are required to submit a Certificate of Existence (i.e., Good Standing)

SIGN UP AT BANK OF SAIPAN

TINIAN RESIDENTS CAN SUBMIT ON MONDAY 9:00AM - 2:00PM AT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

ROTA RESIDENTS CAN SUBMIT ON WEDNESDAY 9:00AM - 2:00PM AT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

WHERE MAY I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Visit boostcnmi.com or contact the Bank of Saipan at (670) 235-6260

SUBSISTENCE APPLICATION FORM

_____ Contact Info
Last Tel. #: _____

_____ _____ Email: _____
First Middle

Physical address:
_____

_____

Mailing address:
_____

Instructions: Please mark which category you are applying for. If you are applying for more than one, please rank which category is more important.

- ❑ **Fisher**
- ❑ **Farmer**
- ❑ **Rancher**

Form of Proof: Subsistefishers, farmers and ranchers must provide evidence of fishing activities. Please mark what is submitted by the applicant:

- ❑ Video
- ❑ Photos
- ❑ Letter(s) of reference
- ❑ Other

Notes:

For internal purposes:

Name of Official (print and sign) Date: _____

_____ Time: _____

For more information, visit www.boostcnmi.com or email FFR@boostcnmi.com

Nation

Biden at 80: A 'respecter of fate' mulls 2nd White House bid

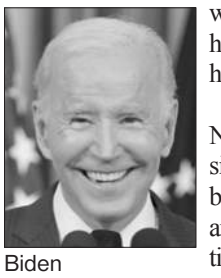
WASHINGTON (AP)—People in their 80s lead countries, create majestic art and perform feats of endurance, one even scaling Mount Everest. It's soon time for Joe Biden, 80 on Sunday, to decide whether he has one more mountain to climb — the one to a second term as president.

Questions swirl now about whether he's got what it takes to go for the summit again.

The oldest president in U.S. history, Biden hits his milestone birthday at a crossroads, as he and his family face a decision in the coming months on whether he should announce for reelection.

Biden aides and allies say he intends to run. Yet the president himself can sound equivocal. "My intention is that I run again," he said at a news conference this month. "But I'm a great respecter of fate."

"We're going to have discussions about it," he said. Aides expect those conversations to pick up over the holidays, with no decision until 2023.


Biden

To observe Biden at work is to see a leader tap a storehouse of knowledge built up over a half century in public office as he draws on deep personal relationships at home and abroad, his mastery of policy and his familiarity with how Washington works. In short, the wisdom of the aged.

But to observe Biden is also to see him walk now often with a halting gait.

It is to see him take a pass on a formal dinner with other leaders without a real explanation, as happened on his trip abroad this past week. Some supporters wince when he speaks, hoping he gets through his remarks OK.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's decision, at age 82, to pull back from leadership and let a new generation rise may spill over into Biden's thinking and that of his party as Democrats weigh whether they want to go with a proven winner or turn to the energy of youth.

Among the questions Pelosi's move raises, said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, an authority on political communications at the University of Pennsylvania: "Even if one is highly competent and successful, is there a point at which one should step aside to give others the opportunity to lead?"

House GOP pushes Hunter Biden probe despite thin majority

WASHINGTON (AP)—Even with their threadbare House majority, Republicans doubled down this week on using their new power next year to investigate the Biden administration and, in particular, the president's son.

But the midterm results have emboldened a White House that has long prepared for this moment. Republicans secured much smaller margins than anticipated, and aides to President Joe Biden and other Democrats believe voters punished the GOP for its reliance on conspiracy theories and Donald Trump-fueled lies over the 2020 election.

They see it as validation for the administration's playbook for the midterms and going forward to focus on legislative achievements and continue them, in contrast to Trump-aligned candidates whose complaints about the president's son played to their most loyal supporters and were too far in the weeds for the average American. The Democrats retained control of the Senate, and the GOP's margin in the House is expected to be the slimmest majority in two decades.

"If you look back, we picked up seats in New York, New Jersey, California," said Mike DuHaime, a Republican strategist and public affairs executive. "These were not voters coming to the polls because they wanted Hunter Biden investigated — far from it. They were coming to the polls because they were upset about inflation. They're upset about gas prices. They're upset about what's going on with the war in Ukraine."

But House Republicans used their first news conference after clinching the majority to discuss presidential son Hunter Biden and the Justice Department, renewing long-held grievances about what they claim is a politicized law enforcement agency and a bombshell corruption case overlooked by Democrats and the media.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-23-005

Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement Project (Tanapag, Capitol Hill and Oleai)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement (Tanapag, Capitol Hill and Oleai) in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the installation of gravity sewer main, new service laterals, connection to existing service laterals, and the installation of sewer manholes.

The project is funded by a grant from the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act (ASADRA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from ASADRA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **365 calendar** days from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **December 6, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-23-002, Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement Project (Tanapag, Capitol Hill and Oleai)"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 20, 2022,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the Unites States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 8, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Acting Chief Engineer for Water/Wastewater via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Joel Puyat, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION TO BID
ITB23-GOV-42300004:
ROTA HEALTHCARE IMPROVEMENTS

SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM ChST DECEMBER 7, 2022

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is soliciting sealed bids for the Rota Healthcare Improvements in Songsong, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only on **November 7, 2022** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Rota Health Center located in Songsong, Rota, CNMI at **10:00 AM ChST November 22, 2022**. Proposers may also request to participate virtually via Zoom Meetings five (5) days prior to the meeting scheduled. All attendees are required to use a face mask and exercise social distancing throughout the duration of the meeting.

Questions regarding this ITB may be sumitted via email to Ms. Sunny Aldan at sunny.aldan@gov.mp no later than **4:30 PM ChST November 29, 2022**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Director of Procurement Services no later than **10:00 AM ChST, December 7, 2022**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor, CNMI

/s/ Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

Pacific Star Wholesale is looking for one experienced

Sales Manager

Who is Highly motivated and excellent selling, communication and with outstanding negotiation skills.

Duties and responsibilities:
- develop a sales strategy to achieve organizational sales goals and revenues
- set individual sales targets with sales team
- monitor the achievement of sales objectives by the sales team
- provide feedback, support and coaching to the sales team
- forecast annual, quarterly, and monthly sales revenue
- control expenses and monitor budgets
- maintain inventory control
- conduct market research and competitor and customer analysis
- develop promotional ideas and material

Qualifications:
- business degree or related professional qualification
- experience in all aspects of planning and implementing sales strategy
- proven experience in customer relationship management
- knowledge of market research; formal presentation skills
- experience in managing and directing a sales team
- excellent written and verbal communication skills
- team-leadership; decision-making; stress tolerance

Interested applicants please email your resume to
pacificstarsaipan@gmail.com

Name: Ann Marie Kaipat and Peter Camacho
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 286-0404

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Adoption of: F.S.R.I -INITIALS ONLY Minor Child By:. Ann Marie Kaipat Peter Camacho Petitioners

Civil Action No. 22-0208

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on December 5, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. in the Courtroom 217A before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 2nd day of June, 2022.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Joey P. San Nicolas
Attorney-at-Law
San Nicolas Law Office, LLC
2nd Floor, Island Commercial Center, Rm. 203
Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai
P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7659 | Fax: (670) 234-9218
Email: jpsn@sannicolaslaw.net
Attorney for Petitioner Velma C. Deleon Guerrero

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
LUIS LG CAMACHO,
Decedent.

Civil Action No.: 22-0256-CV

NOTICE OF HEARING NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF:
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of Velma C. Deleon Guerrero for the issuance of letters of administration will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 15th day of December, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at Room 220A, Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Susupe Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@sannicolaslaw.net.

Pursuant to Rule 11, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, LUIS LG CAMACHO, or of his estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 17th day of November, 2022.

/s/
Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

Asia

North Korea test-fires ICBM with range to strike entire US

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea fired an intercontinental ballistic missile that landed near Japanese waters Friday in its second major weapons test this month that showed a potential ability to launch nuclear strikes on all of the U.S. mainland.

While it's unclear whether North Korea possesses functioning nuclear-armed missiles, some experts say Friday's launch involved its longest-range missile, which is still under development and is designed to carry multiple nuclear warheads to overcome U.S. missile defense systems.

North Korea's recent torrid run of weapons tests aims to advance its nuclear arsenal and win greater concessions in future diplomacy. It comes as China and Russia have opposed U.S. moves to toughen U.N. sanctions aimed at curbing North Korea's nuclear program.

The United States quickly condemned the launch and vowed to take "all necessary measures" to guarantee the safety of its territory and its allies South Korea and Japan. Vice President Kamala Harris met with the leaders of those countries and of Australia, Canada and New Zealand who are attending a regional forum in Bangkok to discuss the launch.

"We again call for North Korea to stop further unlawful, destabilizing acts. On behalf of the United States, I reaffirm our ironclad commitment to our Indo-Pacific alliances," Harris said at the start of the meeting. "Together the countries represented here will continue to urge North Korea to commit to serious and sustained diplomacy."

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected the ICBM launch from North Korea's capital region around 10:15 a.m. Japan said it appeared to fly on a high trajectory and land west of its island of Hokkaido.

According to South Korean and Japanese estimates, the missile flew 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) with a maximum altitude of 6,000-6,100 kilometers (3,600-3,790 miles).

Japanese Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada said that depending on the weight of a potential warhead, the missile had a range exceeding 15,000 kilometers (9,320 miles), "in which case it could cover the entire mainland United States."

Kwon Yong Soo, a former professor at Korea National Defense University in South Korea, said he believes North Korea tested a developmental Hwasong-17 missile, which he said can carry three to five nuclear warheads and fly as far as 15,000 kilometers (9,320 miles).

North Korea has two other ICBMs — Hwasong-14 and Hwasong-15 — and their test launches in 2017 showed they could potentially reach parts or all of the U.S. homeland, respectively. But Kwon said North Korea needs a longer-range missile like the Hwasong-17 capable of flying a lengthier route to the American mainland to evade current U.S. missile defense systems.

The exact status of North Korea's nuclear and missile technologies is shrouded in secrecy.

Chang Young-keun, a missile expert at Korea Aerospace University in South Korea, said North Korea has shown that its missiles have ICBM-class flight ranges but has yet to publicly prove that warheads will be able to survive the harsh conditions of atmospheric reentry. Some experts believe North Korea has likely acquired such technologies.

Chang said Friday's launch was successful and that the flight details indicated it was the same type of missile that North Korea tested in March, when North Korea claimed to have launched a Hwasong-17, but South Korea insisted it was a Hwasong-15.

U.S. National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said the launch "needlessly raises tensions" and shows that North Korea is prioritizing unlawful weapons programs over the wellbeing of its people. "Pyongyang must immediately cease its destabilizing actions and instead choose diplomatic engagement," Watson said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

VP Harris to visit, support PH island amid sea feud

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Vice President Kamala Harris would underscore America's commitment to defending treaty ally the Philippines with a visit that starts Sunday and involves flying to an island province facing the disputed South China Sea, where Washington has accused China of bullying smaller claimant nations.

After attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Thailand, Harris will fly Sunday night to Manila and on Monday meet President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. for talks aimed at reinforcing Washington's oldest treaty alliance in Asia and strengthening economic ties, said a senior U.S. administration official, who was not identified according to practice, in an online briefing ahead of the visit.

On Tuesday she'll fly to Palawan province, which lies along the South China Sea, to meet local fishermen, villagers, officials and the coast guard. Once there, she'll be the highest-ranking U.S. leader to visit the frontier island at the forefront of the long-seething territorial disputes involving China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

The Philippine coast guard is scheduled to welcome Harris onboard one of its biggest patrol ships, the BRP Teresa Magbanua, in Palawan, where she would deliver a speech before coast guard, police, military and government officials, according to coast guard spokesperson Commodore Armand Balilo.

China announces 1st COVID-19 death in almost 6 months

BEIJING (AP)—China on Sunday announced its first new death from COVID-19 in nearly half a year as strict new measures are imposed in Beijing and across the country to ward against new outbreaks.

The death of the 87-year-old Beijing man was the first reported by the National Health Commission since May 26, bringing the total death toll to 5,227. The previous death was reported in Shanghai, which underwent a major surge in cases over the summer.

While China has an overall vaccination rate of more than 92% having received at least one dose, that number is considerably lower among the elderly, particularly those over age 80. The commission did not give details on the vaccination status of the deceased.

That vulnerability is considered one reason why China has mostly kept its borders closed and is sticking with its rigid "zero-COVID" policy that seeks to wipe out infections through lockdowns, quarantines, case tracing and mass testing, despite the impact on normal life and the economy and rising public anger at the authorities.

World

Kherson comes alive after Russian forces withdrawal

KHERSON, Ukraine (AP)—A week since the southern Ukrainian city of Kherson was liberated, residents can't escape reminders of the terrifying eight months they spent under Russian occupation.

AP

People hug upon the arrival of the first train from the capital Kyiv, after the Russian troops withdrew from the city of Kherson, Ukraine, Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022.

People are missing. There are mines everywhere, closed shops and restaurants, a scarcity of electricity and water, and explosions day and night as Russian and Ukrainian forces battle just across the Dnieper River.

Despite the hardships, residents are expressing a mix of relief, optimism, and even joy — not least because of their regained freedom to express themselves at all.

"Even breathing became easier. Everything is different now," said Olena Smoliana, a pharmacist whose eyes shone with happiness as she recalled the day Ukrainian soldiers entered the city.

Kherson's population has dwindled to around 80,000 from its prewar level near 300,000, but the city is slowly coming alive. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy triumphantly walked the streets on Monday, hailing Russia's withdrawal — a humiliating defeat for Russian President Vladimir Putin — as the "beginning of the end of the war."

People are no longer afraid to leave home or worried that contact with Russian soldiers might lead to a prison or torture cell. They are gathering in city squares — adorned with blue-and-yellow ribbons on their bags and jackets — to recharge phones, collect water and to talk with neighbors and relatives.

"If we survived the occupation, we will survive this without any problems," said Yulia Nenadyschuk, 53, who had hunkered down at home with her husband, Oleksandr, since the Russian invasion began but now comes downtown every day.

The worst deprivation was the lack of freedom to be yourself, which was like being in a "cage," she said.

"You couldn't say anything out loud, you couldn't speak Ukrainian," said Oleksandr Nenadyschuk, 57. "We were constantly being watched, you couldn't even look around."

Residents of Kherson talk about the "silent terror" that defined their occupation, which was different than the devastating military sieges that turned other Ukrainian cities — such as Mariupol, Sievierodonetsk, and Lysychansk — to rubble.

Russian forces entered Kherson in the early days of the war from nearby Crimea, which Moscow illegally annexed in 2014, and quickly took over the city. The city was the only regional capital Moscow captured after the invasion began on Feb. 24.

People mostly communicate in Russian in Kherson. Early on in the war, some residents were tolerant of neighbors who sympathized with Russia, but there was a palpable shift during the occupation, said Smoliana, the pharmacist.

Turkey strikes in Syria, Iraq a week after Istanbul bombing

ISTANBUL (AP)—Turkey launched airstrikes over northern regions of Syria and Iraq, the Turkish Defense Ministry said Sunday, targeting Kurdish groups that Ankara holds responsible for last week's bomb attack in Istanbul.

Warplanes attacked bases of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, and the Syrian People's Protection Units, or YPG, the ministry said in a statement, which was accompanied by images of F-16 jets taking off and footage of a strike from an aerial drone.

There was no immediate comment from either group.

The ministry cited Turkey's right to self defense under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter in launching an operation it called Claw-Sword. It said it was targeting areas "used as a base by terrorists in their attacks on our country."

Turkey said it was seeking to prevent attacks, secure its southern border and "destroy terrorism at its source."

The airstrikes came after a bomb rocked a bustling avenue in the heart of Istanbul on Nov. 13, killing six people and wounding over 80 others. Turkish authorities blamed the attack on the PKK and its Syrian affiliate the YPG. The Kurdish militant groups have, however, have denied involvement.

Ankara and Washington both consider the PKK a terror group, but disagree on the status of the YPG. Under the banner of the Syrian Democratic Forces, the YPG has been allied with the U.S. in the fight against the Islamic State group in Syria.

The PKK has fought an armed insurgency in Turkey since 1984. The conflict has killed tens of thousands of people since then.

Following the strikes, the Defense Ministry posted a photo of an F-16 fighter plane with the phrase, "Payback time! The scoundrels are being held to account for their treacherous attacks." The DHA news agency reported that F-16s took off from airfields in Malatya and Diyarbakir in southern Turkey while drones were launched from Batman.

Defense Minister Hulusi Akar oversaw the airstrikes from an operations center and congratulated pilots and ground staff. "Our aim is to ensure the security of our 85 million citizens and our borders and to retaliate for any treacherous attack on our country," he said, according to a ministry statement.

Akar added: "Shelters, bunkers, caves, tunnels and warehouses belonging to terrorists were destroyed with great success. ... The so-called headquarters of the terrorist organization were also hit and destroyed with direct hits."

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Why guys need to man up to flu

DREAMSTIME/TNS

There's no such thing as "too late to get vaccinated." That said, it's best to get your shot early, particularly this year, as flu infections are already on the rise.

By ARMIN BROTT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Dear Healthy Men: I've already had my COVID-19 shot and two boosters, but my wife is bugging me to get a flu vaccine. I say that the COVID shots will protect me. She disagrees. Who's right?

A: In two words, she is. Many people, particularly guys, are trying to decide whether to get an influenza (flu) shot this year and, as your question highlights, a lot of misconceptions are out there about the flu itself and vaccines. To clear them up, we've put together a list of myths and facts. Below are a few of the reasons we suggest you have a discussion with your health care provider about vaccines and the best ways to keep yourself and your family safe and healthy this flu season and beyond. You'll find the full list and other resources at www.HealthyMen.org/ManUpToFlu.

Myth: I'm fully COVID-vaccinated, so I don't need a flu vaccine.

Fact: After more than two years of COVID, we're all a little vaccine-weary. But the truth is, COVID and flu are caused by completely different viruses. As a result, the COVID shots (including boosters) you've had won't protect you against the flu — and the seasonal flu vaccine your wife is suggesting won't protect you against COVID. For most people, flu shots have been shown to reduce the risk of contracting the flu. As mentioned above, talk over the pluses and minuses with your health care provider.

Myth: I'm too healthy to get sick.

Fact: As guys, many of us have grown up thinking of ourselves as invincible, but I'm sorry to report, that's simply not true. How many times have you read or heard about elite athletes or others in top physical condition who get laid out (or die) from a physical, mental or infectious condition? As we get older and wiser, our ability to heal and to fight infections declines. We certainly can and should make lifestyle changes that minimize health risks, but sometimes we too will be sidelined. Healthy Men believes that being vaccinated against the flu virus is a quick and simple way to protect yourself and your family from this threat.

Myth: The flu isn't really a big deal.

Fact: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that each year from 2010 to 2020, between 140,000 and 170,000 Americans were hospitalized for flu-related conditions and 12,000 to 52,000 died. Risks of hospitalization and death are particularly high for the elderly, immunocompromised individuals and the very young. In addition, the flu can cause big problems in unexpected parts of your body. For example, according to the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, if you have a heart condition, flu puts you at six times the risk of having a heart attack within just seven days of getting the flu.

Myth: Flu season has already started, so it's too late to get vaccinated.

Fact: Au contraire! There's no such thing as "too late to get vaccinated." That said, it's best to get your shot early, particularly this year, as flu infections are already on the rise.

Myth: When you get the flu shot, your loved ones will stop nagging you.

Fact: This one's true! Because so much of health advertising and messaging is aimed at women, they're often more aware than guys of the need to vaccinate. And they're frequently the ones in guys' lives who, in their own special way, urge us to take better care of ourselves, So, to the ladies and other loved ones out there, continue urging the guys in your life to get a seasonal flu shot. For the guys out there, when you do get that shot, you'll have a bit more peace. Again, for the complete list, visit www.HealthyMen.org/ManUpToFlu.

ON NUTRITION What's true about diabetes

By BARBARA INTERMILL
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

I'm getting lots of reminders that November is Diabetes Awareness Month. And I'm also being reminded that many Americans still don't understand some basic facts about the disease—even though it affects more than 1 out of 10 of us. That's 37.3 million people.

First question, what is diabetes? I hear "It's got something to do with too much sugar" or "It's because I ate too many sweets."

In fact, with diabetes, the pancreas does not produce enough or cannot properly use insulin, the hormone we need to shuttle energy from our food into our cells. People with Type 1 diabetes produce no insulin. Those with Type 2 diabetes produce insulin, but their body resists its action, hence the term "insulin resistance."

The result is that life-giving energy (glucose) gets backed up in the blood trying to get to its destination. And that's how diabetes is diagnosed: abnormally high levels of glucose (sugar) in the blood.

What do we do about it? See if you can answer these questions.

1. Type 1 diabetes is:

A. The most common type of diabetes in childhood

B. Treated with multiple daily shots of insulin

C. Still without a cure, but we're getting closer.

Answer: All of these are true.

2. Type 2 diabetes can often be prevented if you:

A. Get more exercise

B. Lose weight healthily

C. Get different parents

Answer: A, B. Even if you inherit the tendency for Type 2 diabetes, exercise and healthy weight loss can help prevent (and treat) it.

3. If you have diabetes, you can

A. Kiss all forms of sugar goodbye

B. Forget Thanksgiving dinner

C. Enjoy a variety of foods in the right balance

Answer: C.

4. The three most important ways to control diabetes are:

A. Ignore, hope and pray

B. Tone down your intake of high carbohydrate foods (sugars and starches), exercise and take medication if needed

C. No sweets, no fun, no way.

Answer: B.

5. Which of these is not a good trade-off for people with diabetes?

A. Honey in place of sugar

B. Nuts in place of cookies

C. Sparkling water in place of soda

Answer: A. Although small amounts of sugar are OK for people with diabetes, all forms must be counted. That includes honey, syrup and other types of added sugars.

6. The best diet to manage diabetes is:

A. Carbohydrate-controlled diet

B. High-protein diet

C. What your doctor tells you

Answer: All may be appropriate, or not. People with diabetes need a diet individualized to their lifestyle and health conditions.

7. What is the best way to approach a new diagnosis of diabetes?

A. Drown your sorrows in a pint of ice cream

B. Ignore it

C. Make an appointment with a certified diabetes care and education specialist

Answer: C.

What's true about diabetes? It can be controlled … if you take it seriously.

DREAMSTIME/TNS

Many Americans still don't understand some basic facts about diabetes—even though it affects more than 1 out of 10 of us. That's 37.3 million people.

Barbara Intermill is a registered dietitian nutritionist and syndicated columnist. She is the author of Quinn-Essential Nutrition: The Uncomplicated Science of Eating. *Email her at barbara@quinnessentialnutrition.com.*

MAYO CLINIC MINUTE

Strategies to quit smoking

By ALEX OSIADACZ
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the U.S., and a listed risk factor for numerous diseases.

"I think the reasons for quitting are primarily to avoid the adverse health effects, live longer and live better," says Dr. J. Taylor Hays, director of the Mayo Clinic Nicotine Dependence Center.

The addictive nature of smoking can be traced to nicotine, a chemical that alternates between stimulant and depressant. Dr. Hays says reducing cravings requires a combined approach of behavioral and medication therapy.

"It's generally the same for all addictions, that we want to change the way people think and the way they behave surrounding the use of the substance," says Dr. Hays.

Avoiding triggers, trying exercise and relaxation techniques, and leaning on a support system are just a few tips to consider when quitting. The results can reduce stress and improve overall health.

"Even though people use smoking as a stress reliever, it probably creates more stress," says Dr. Hays. "We know that people who quit have a significant reduction in psychological distress."

Life & Style

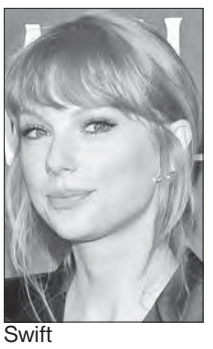
Taylor Swift tickets breakdown probed by attorneys general

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The breakdown in Ticketmaster's sales of Taylor Swift tickets is a mess some attorneys general aren't shaking off.

With fans sharing outrage and heartache over the fruitless hours they spent trying for seats for Swift's upcoming concert tour, top legal chiefs in Nevada, Tennessee and Pennsylvania have launched investigations into the fiasco.

"Trouble, trouble, trouble," tweeted Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro in a reference to Swift's 2012 hit song 'I Knew You Were Trouble' as he asked the public to file complaints about using Ticketmaster with his office.

Shapiro, a Democrat who recently won Pennsylvania's governor race, has since thanked people for their "swift response" while noting his office had received "a lot of complaints" to look into.


Swift

Over in Tennessee, Attorney General Jonathan Skrmetti said he wants to ensure consumers have a fair shot at buying tickets.

"There are no allegations at this time of any misconduct, but as the attorney general it's my job to ensure that the consumer protection laws and antitrust laws in Tennessee are being honored," Skrmetti told reporters.

In 2008, Tennessee enacted a so-called "anti-bot" law that prohibits using certain computer programs to buy large amounts of tickets to concerts and sporting events. However, like most states that have passed similar bans, the law has rarely been enforced.

Meanwhile, in Nevada, the attorney general's office said it was investigating Ticketmaster for "alleged deceptive or unfair trade practices."

The trouble began when registered fans given codes for a pre-sale on Tuesday tried to secure tickets for Swift's 52-date The Eras tour next year. They were quickly met with long delays and error messages that Ticketmaster blamed on bots and historically unprecedented demand. The company then canceled Friday's sales to the general public.

Swift vented anger and frustration in a lengthy statement, saying she had been assured by Ticketmaster that they could handle the demand.

"It's really difficult for me to trust an outside entity with these relationships and loyalties, and excruciating for me to just watch mistakes happen with no recourse," Swift said.

Ticketmaster said more than 2 million tickets were sold despite the troubles, setting a new single-day record for artists on the platform, and that only 15% of would-be buyers had issues with the process.

"We want to apologize to Taylor and all of her fans – especially those who had a terrible experience trying to purchase tickets," the company said.

Multiple lawmakers have accused Ticketmaster of abusing its power as the dominant ticket-seller for consumers.

Taylor Swift angry for fans in Ticketmaster meltdown

NEW YORK (AP)—Swifties, your girl has spoke on the Ticketmaster meltdown.

Taylor Swift posted a story Friday on Instagram expressing her anger and frustration over the hours spent by fans trying to buy tickets for her tour next year.

"I'm not going to make excuses for anyone because we asked them, multiple times, if they could handle this kind of demand and we were assured they could," she wrote. "It's truly amazing that 2.4 million people got tickets, but it really pisses me off that a lot of them feel like they went through several bear attacks to get them."

Of those who lost out, Swift said she hopes to "provide more opportunities for us to all get together and sing these songs."

Fans trying to scoop up tickets Tuesday in a pre-sale for Swift's The Eras tour were met by massive delays and error messages that Ticketmaster blamed on bots and historically unprecedented demand. It was the most tickets sold on the platform in a single day, the company said in a statement. A general public sale scheduled for Friday was canceled the day before.

Some fans wondered why Swift hadn't spoken out sooner.

On Instagram, the pop star didn't address timing but said she has trust issues when it comes to her fans' experience, trying to keep many elements of her career in house.

"It's really difficult for me to trust an outside entity with these relationships and loyalties, and excruciating for me to just watch mistakes happen with no recourse," Swift said.

In addition to Tuesday's nightmare, Ticketmaster cited "extraordinarily high demands on ticketing systems and insufficient remaining ticket inventory to meet that demand" as a reason for calling off Friday's sale.

Fresh off one of the biggest album launches of her career, Swift announced earlier this month that she was going on a new U.S. stadium tour, with international dates to follow. Fans who received a special code after registering had exclusive access to buy tickets Tuesday. Those who didn't score tickets were placed on a waiting list.

The 52-date Eras Tour kicks off March 17 in Glendale, Arizona, and wraps up with five shows in Los Angeles ending Aug. 9. It's Swift's first tour since 2018.

4th person surrenders in slaying of rapper Young Dolph

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—A fourth person wanted in the slaying of rapper Young Dolph turned himself in on Friday, Memphis police said.

Jermarcus Johnson was wanted on a charge of conspiracy to commit first-degree murder, police said on the agency's Facebook page. Police did not provide any additional details about Johnson or his alleged role in the case.

Three others were arrested previously, including Hernandez Govan, who appeared briefly in Shelby County Criminal Court on Thursday and pleaded not guilty to charges including first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit first-degree murder. Govan's next hearing is Dec. 16.

Govan's court appearance was a year to the day after Young Dolph was ambushed and shot to death while buying cookies at a bakery in his hometown of Memphis. Young Dolph, whose real name was Adolph Thornton Jr.. was 36.

Justin Johnson and Cornelius Smith Jr. have pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder and other charges in the shooting and are jailed without bond. They are scheduled to appear in court on Jan. 20.

Young Dolph was admired for charitable works in Memphis. He organized Thanksgiving turkey giveaways, donated thousands of dollars to high schools, and paid rent and covered funeral costs for people in the Castalia Heights neighborhood where he was raised.

His work as a rapper, producer and owner of the independent label "Paper Route Empire" took him away from Memphis, but the father of two had returned to the city days before his killing to visit a sick relative and organize a turkey giveaway that took place without him.

After Young Dolph's death, a section of a street near his boyhood home was renamed for him.

Collection of love letters written by Dylan sold for $670K

BOSTON (AP)—A collection of touching and sometimes prescient personal letters written by a young Bob Dylan to a high school girlfriend has been sold at auction to a renowned Portuguese bookshop for nearly $670,000.

The Livraria Lello in Porto, Portugal, which bills itself as "the World's Most Beautiful Bookshop," plans to keep the archive of 42 handwritten letters totaling 150 pages complete and available for Dylan fans and scholars to study, auctioneer RR Auction said in a statement Friday.

Dylan, a native of Hibbing, Minnesota, wrote the letters to Barbara Ann Hewitt between 1957 and 1959 when he was still known as Bob Zimmerman. They provide an insight into a period of his life of which not much is known.

Remarkably, in some of the letters Dylan writes about changing his name and hoping to sell a million records. Decades later, the now 81-year-old Dylan and 2016 recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature has sold about 125 million records.

The young musician also expresses his affection for Hewitt, invites her to a Buddy Holly show, includes little fragments of poetry, and talks about the sorts of things that generations of high school students have been concerned about, such as cars, clothes and music.

Wife overhears husband make demeaning comments

DEAR ABBY: I am a wife and mother in my late 30s. I'm also a registered nurse, beginning a master's degree program to advance my career. I consider myself to be an intelligent person, and I did well in college.

My husband is also intelligent, and I'm proud of his accomplishments in his career. However, he can be arrogant at times, giving the impression that he is smarter than everyone else around him—including me.

Today, I overheard him talking to his boss, whom he told about the master's program I am starting in a few weeks. He then told his boss he would probably have to write some of my papers for me. I couldn't believe he said that. First of all, it's not true; I would never have anyone complete my work for me. Second, I found it insulting that he would say I need him to complete my assignments. (We are in different fields. He is an engineer.) He didn't know I was home when he said it, but I walked into his office as soon as I heard. He looked startled and apologized, but I just can't get over it. I feel so hurt and humiliated. Is this what he tells his co-workers about me? How do I move on?

ACCOMPLISHED IN OHIO

DEAR ACCOMPLISHED: Your engineer husband's ego may be threatened because you are becoming more academically accomplished. He may also have been trying to inflate his image in his boss's eyes by casting you as "the little woman" when you caught him red-handed. Regardless of what he may say to others, your accomplishments speak for themselves. Don't you forget that. As for how to move on, it may depend upon your willingness to forgive him for his frailties.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My son "Alex" and his girlfriend, "Dee," lived together for eight years. We were all very close and did lots of family things together with my other son and his family. Alex broke up with Dee two years ago, although they continued talking for some time afterward. We all hoped they would make up. He was under a lot of stress at the time and suffers from depression and anxiety. He was sorry a month after the breakup, but Dee did not want to get back together.

We have stayed in touch. She still skates with my daughter-in-law, and we met for brunch recently. Dee mentioned she met someone on an online dating site six months ago and it could get serious. This man knows she feels it's time for marriage and a family. He is eight years older than she is, never married and has no kids. They are not living together. Dee has met his family.

Should I let my son know? I feel Alex needs to move on, and he really hasn't. I think he still hopes they will be together.

PROTECTIVE MOM IN CALIFORNIA

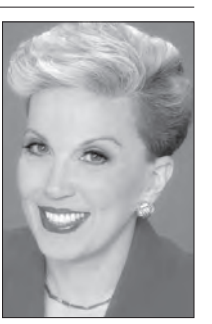
DEAR MOM: Dee told you she had met someone because she knew you would deliver the message to your son. If he has put his life on hold, hoping to reunite with her, he deserves to know it isn't in the cards—so tell him.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

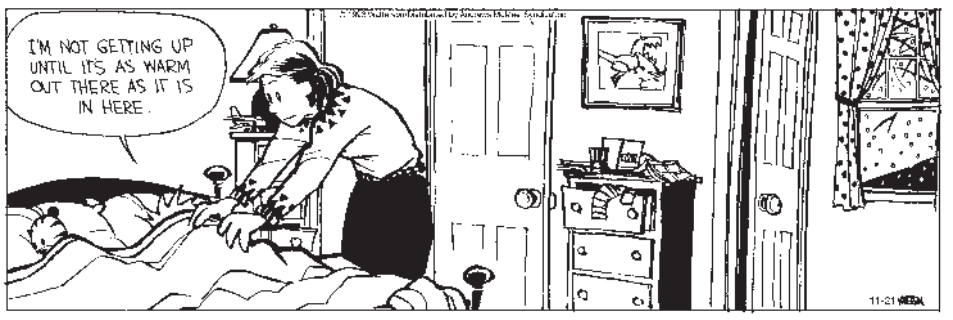


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

IS MY TURKEY COSTUME CLEAN?
I THINK WE GOT RID OF IT LAST YEAR AFTER THE CRANBERRY INCIDENT.
WHAT? THAT COSTUME IS A FAMILY HEIRLOOM!
YOU BOUGHT IT OFF AMAZON.
HEIRLOOMS HAVE TO START SOMEWHERE, DEAR!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I USED TO IMAGINE WHAT THE FUTURE WOULD BE LIKE.
I THOUGHT EVERYONE WOULD BE FLYING AROUND WITH JETPACKS BY NOW.
I THOUGHT OUR DOG SCIENTISTS WOULD HAVE FIGURED OUT CAN OPENERS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Wager
4 Chest muscle
7 Dis-concert
11 Frosts a cake
13 — carte
14 Slanted type (Abbr.)
15 Author Harte
16 World Series org.
17 Bottle part
18 "Poison" shrub
20 "That's — need to know"
22 TV's Romano
24 Op-ed pieces
28 Gabbed
32 Tossed
33 Basil or thyme
34 Humorist
36 — good example
37 Devour
39 Relate
41 Scribe
43 Sailor
44 Lacking slack
46 Levitate
50 Timber wolf
53 Pen tip
55 For-bidden act
56 Envelope abbr.
57 "Today" rival, briefly
58 Amor-phous mass
59 AAA jobs
60 Briny expanse
61 Mao — -tung

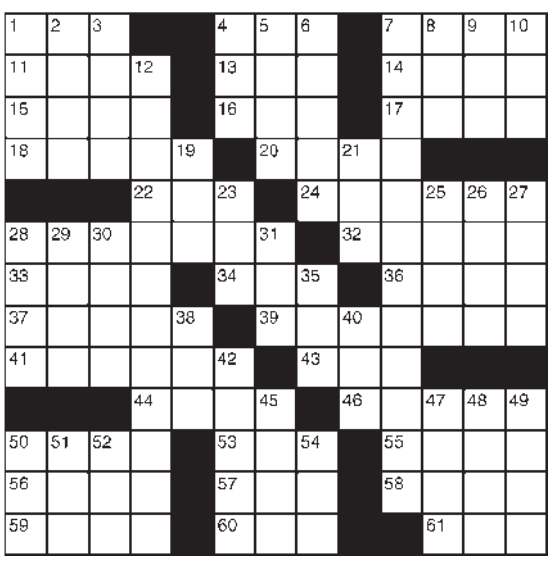
DOWN

1 Shirt protectors
2 Beige
3 Abound
4 "The Office" character
5 Scat queen Fitzgerald
6 Monthly bill
7 End a marathon with vigor
8 Chowed down
9 Efron of "Park-land"
10 Wapiti
12 Printer activators
19 Jazz lover
21 D-Day vessel
23 Ever-green tree
25 Bailiwick
26 Big-foot's cousin
27 Graceful bird
28 Enjoy gum
29 Get wind of
30 Intro studio class
31 Quick swim
35 Asian holiday
38 Pot pie morsel
40 Fan's cry
42 Ladder steps
45 Watch reading
47 Electric unit
48 Seth's son
49 Judicial garb
50 Long. crosser
51 Okla-homa tribe
52 Texter's "Inciden-tally"
54 Sheep's cry

Solution time: 26 mins.

A	L	O	H	A		I	A	B		S	A	G
G	A	P	E	D		A	M	O		T	R	U
E	N	E	R	O		H	Y	D	R	A	T	E
		R	A	B	B	I	S		U	N	I	S
A	H	A		E	O	N		A	N	D	E	S
R	F	T	C			S	I	S	S	Y		
C	R	E	E	P	O		C	H	O	M	P	S
			E	M	P	O		N	I	L	E	
A	L	L	O	T		I	L	G		G	Y	M
I	U	I	U		I	O	H	R	C	H		
P	R	O	R	A	T	E		O	M	A	H	A
H	E	Y		A	M	B		S	I	T	O	N
A	D	D		A	L	E		S	T	E	N	O

Last Friday's Answer 11/21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Carly Rae Jepsen, 37; Jena Malone, 38; Michael Strahan, 51; Goldie Hawn, 77.

Happy Birthday: Laboring over the impossible is a waste of time. Concentrate on what moves you, and gather the information that helps you prepare for the success you are trying to achieve. Investing time, money and energy will make it easier to accept the changes necessary to reach your goal. Opportunities will come from familiarities, not newfangled schemes. Choose peace over chaos. Your numbers are 6, 10, 18, 22, 28, 33, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Look for any opportunity to make your money stretch. Invest in yourself and your ability to earn more, and manage your savings efficiently. Emotional spending or paying for someone else's mistake will leave you ill at ease. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Consider your position and how you can improve an unfolding situation. A change may seem scary, but sitting still and doing nothing will make you vulnerable. Decide what it is you want and advocate on your behalf. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Ignore anyone trying to interfere with your plans, and engage in matters that can help you advance. A disciplined attitude will help you gain respect and the assistance you need to finish things on time. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Read between the lines. Let your intuition guide you when dealing with youngsters, seniors and lovers. Be a good listener, and you'll get a clear picture of what you can do to improve things. An innovative attitude will serve you well. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Playing emotional games will backfire. Using charm to win favors can work if you don't renege on your promises. Maintaining a stellar reputation is imperative to getting what you want. Accept the inevitable and find a positive way to move forward. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Make sure you know what's expected of you before you enter negotiations. It's up to you to lay out a feasible plan and sell it to those less accommodating. A personal situation will turn out better than anticipated. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Focus on what you are trying to achieve. Learn as you go, and don't stop until you are happy with the results. A financial loss will occur if you hesitate or neglect to take care of your responsibilities. Choose your words carefully. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* What you do will significantly impact what unfolds. Talk is cheap unless you are prepared to follow through with your promises. Look at your budget and adjust whatever is necessary to ensure you can finish what you start. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take advantage of any opportunity that comes your way. Your ability to size up situations and make decisions quickly will help you stay ahead of any competition you encounter. Don't let the mistakes others make burden you. Offer suggestions, not hands-on help. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Do what's right, and don't look back. A change is necessary if you want to maintain balance and equality in your life. Look for opportunities that allow you to grow personally and professionally. Don't let your emotions lead you astray. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Be cautious with investments, health and contracts. Read the fine print, and don't act in haste. Put more effort into taking care of your responsibilities and seeking alternative ways to bring in more cash. Self-improvement projects are favored. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Weigh the pros and cons before agreeing to something questionable. Problems will begin with a lack of valid information and continue if you don't question what others do or say. Do your due diligence. Speak the truth and verify facts. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining, appealing and focused. You are optimistic and outgoing.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5			4			1	
6			7			3		
3		8	6		5	2		9
	8			3			7	
2			1			4		
7		3	5		2	8		1
	6			7			2	
4			3			9		
5		7	2		6	1		4

Difficulty Level ★ 11/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

5	3	8	4	2	1	9	7	6
9	6	7	3	8	5	1	4	2
2	4	1	7	6	9	3	8	5
1	5	4	8	9	7	6	2	3
3	7	9	6	1	2	8	5	4
6	8	2	5	3	4	7	1	9
8	1	6	2	4	3	5	9	7
4	9	5	1	7	6	2	3	8
7	2	3	9	5	8	4	6	1

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

OUTDOOR MARKETS **Solution: 8 letters**

C	L	E	D	A	M	E	M	O	H	O	N	E	Y	M
I	E	I	S	S	Y	R	A	Ⓜ	E	S	O	R	U	A
D	N	L	S	P	E	P	P	E	Ⓡ	C	A	S	E	P
A	P	I	E	A	I	S	E	I	B	Ⓐ	H	U	L	L
L	A	A	P	R	B	C	P	R	S	R	Ⓕ	U	Q	E
A	R	S	E	A	Y	E	E	G	O	H	M	S	B	S
S	H	O	M	G	R	A	E	O	R	T	C	T	A	Y
N	U	N	Y	U	D	T	M	T	O	A	S	A	K	R
A	B	A	H	S	O	S	I	P	S	R	P	G	E	U
E	A	G	T	O	R	R	A	C	A	T	A	E	R	P
B	R	E	R	E	D	N	O	P	H	R	O	K	Y	A
A	B	R	W	E	S	R	P	A	D	O	S	A	L	S
V	L	O	E	A	N	L	E	E	K	S	K	L	L	T
A	L	S	G	G	E	A	N	A	N	A	B	E	E	R
F	R	E	S	H	C	A	N	I	P	S	M	A	J	Y

©2021 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 11/21

Arrange, Bikes, Bins, Box, Bucket, Bulk, Categorize, Clean, Declutter, Fill, Flowerpots, Functional, Garden, Gym, Hammer, Hose, Install, Insulate, Lighting, Locks, Outdoor, Paint, Pocket, Polish, Repair, Rinse, Seasonal, Shelf, Size, Soil, Sponge, Storage, Table, Tarp, Tidy, Tires, Tools, Vehicle, Wagon, Wall, Wheelbarrow, Window, Wood, Workshop, Wrench

Last Friday's Answer: Daily

Purchase the NEW **Volume 70** in time for the holidays at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

The CNMI Office of the Governor proudly announces

BOOST
Workforce Development Training Program

If you are of legal age to work in the CNMI, you qualify to register for the BOOST Workforce Program.

This Program aims to place qualified individuals, or interested persons who want to work in the private sector, into a variety of businesses that align with their passions and skills.

Individuals interested in training and working in the private sector,

Open Registration Begins:

TUESDAY

Date: November 22, 2022

Location: Bank of Saipan

Time: 9am to 12pm

***B**uilding **O**ptimism, **O**pportunities, and **S**tability **T**ogether*

For individuals registering, please bring a valid ID, birth certificate, or other proof of residency and any training certifications.

For more information visit our website at **www.boostcnmi.com** or email **workforce@boostcnmi.com**

US battles injuries, idleness ahead of World Cup opener

DOHA, Qatar (AP)—A World Cup jammed into the middle of the European season isn't ideal, especially for the United States.

Injuries and idleness run throughout the roster ahead of Monday's match against Wales.

Weston McKennie, Sergiño Dest and Luca de la Torre missed time, and Christian Pulisic and Matt Turner are among those struggling for playing time with their clubs. Defenders Walker Zimmerman and Aaron Long enter the Americans' first World Cup match in eight years on layoffs of more than a month after the ends of their Major League Soccer seasons.

A friendly was held Thursday against Al-Gharafa, the Qatari club hosting the American training base at Thani bin Jassim Stadium, but the level of intensity figures to be exponentially higher against Wales.

"This is going to be a dogfight," McKennie said Saturday. "When everyone's on all cylinders and fighting for each other and you see little fights on the field and everybody's just fired up and ready to go, those are the times that I think we've played at our best."

Absent from soccer's biggest stage since the extra-time loss to Belgium in the round of 16 in Brazil, the Americans take a new-look roster into the game — only right back DeAndre Yedlin remains from 2014. FIFA said the Americans' average age of 25.2 years is the second lowest among the 32 teams, higher than only Ghana's 24.7.

United States players participate in an official training session at Al-Gharafa SC Stadium, in Doha, Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022. AP

With youth comes inconsistency.

"Every athlete in every single sport has an off day," McKennie said. "And the thing about soccer, it's such a team sport that even if one player has an off day, it can throw off everything, and all of us have had an off day at some point. Obviously, we know when we come to the national team, everyone wants us to be 100%, everyone wants us to be focused and everything, which we are. But at the same time we're humans and can we have faults, as well, so I think those are the times whenever we haven't gotten the results maybe we want and haven't been at our full potential."

McKennie last played a competitive match for Juventus on Oct. 29 because of a thigh injury.

"I came in, did a couple days of just maintaining and keeping it under control," McKennie said. "We played the friendly the other day and I felt good, ready to go."

Dest, battling an adductor issue, has not played 90 minutes since Oct. 5. He returned from the injury to play 35 minutes for AC Milan on Nov. 13.

"After the last game, I had a little bit of fatigue," he said. "Right now it's going well. I'm ready to play."

The U.S. Soccer Federation did not let media watch the friendly against Al-Gharafa.

"We got a lot out of it defensively, offensively," Long said. "Finishing the attacks was great. Obviously got a couple goals in there, get the guys confident in front of the net."

Players expect Wales to play five in the back. When asked about his ability to join the attack, Dest started to answer, then halted and said: "One second." He paused to consult with McKennie, sitting next to him, and McKennie giggled as his teammate whispered, apparently wanting to make sure he didn't divulge too much.

"We know Wales like to go forward a lot, so they leave spaces behind," Dest said. "I think we can take advantage from that, especially from the sides, and whoever plays that position, right or left back, has a lot of space."

MAN WITH THE WHISTLE

Abdulrahman Al-Jassim of host Qatar will be the referee for the match and Abdullah Al-Marri will be the video assistant referee. Al-Jassim was a video assistant referee at the 2018 World Cup and worked the United States' 1-0 win over Panama at the 2019 CONCACAF Gold Cup.

VAN DER VAART CRITICISM

Dest did not respond to criticism from former Netherlands international Rafael van der Vaart, who told Dutch TV station Ziggo Sport "he can be very good, but he always takes too much on his plate. He thinks he is much better than he is."

"I know my abilities. Of course I'm going to improve and learn some more things," Dest responded. "I don't know what he said."

Jazz beat Blazers 118-113 to take Western Conference lead

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Jordan Clarkson scored 28 points, including eight straight in the final 1:48, in the Utah Jazz's 118-113 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers on Saturday night.

Malik Beasley had 29 points off the bench to help Utah take the Western Conference lead at 12-6.

"We're proud of the way we've represented ourselves after 18 games," Jazz coach Will Hardy said. "We believe we can get better. That's our focus. Like every team, we're not a finished product yet. That doesn't mean we're proud of where we are at this point, but we can't get lost in what anybody is saying about us."

Beasley was a force throughout the game, especially in the second quarter, where he scored 15 points.

"I think he's understanding our system a little bit better," Jazz coach Will Hardy said about Beasley, who made six 3-pointers. "The timing with which he's cutting, the timing of how he is coming off screens has been really good. And his teammates have been finding him at the right moments."

The Jazz also scored 28 points off 18 Blazers turnovers.

"A lot of it is carelessness," Blazers coach Chauncey Billups said. "Some of it is other teams pressuring our passes and activity. Some of is unfamiliarity with each other. There's a lot of thing put into that. But regardless of what the issue is we have to be better."

Anfernee Simons led Portland with 23 points.

"We took too long to fight," Billups said.

Both teams lost their starting point guards in the second half.

After colliding into a screen, Utah's Mike Conley left with a left knee injury with 10:22 left in the third quarter.

Not long after Conley exited, Trail Blazers star Damian Lillard went to the locker room and did not return because of tightness in his right calf. Lillard has missed five games so far this season with the calf strain.

"The last time was worse," Lillard said of his current calf issue. "When I first strained it, I knew right away. The reason I took myself out is so hopefully this time we can get ahead of it instead of me staying out there and putting myself in a worse position."

Timberwolves 112, 76ers 109

In Philadelphia, Anthony Edwards scored 25 points, D'Angelo Russell had 19 and the Minnesota Timberwolves survived a late scare from the undermanned Philadelphia 76ers and won their third straight game 112-109 on Saturday.

The 76ers have played without James Harden for two weeks because of a right foot tendon strain and added starting guard Tyrese Maxey to the injury list with a broken left foot. P.J. Tucker suffered an unspecified injury against the Timberwolves and Joel Embiid injured his left ankle/foot following a late-game collision with a teammate.

Embiid, the reigning NBA scoring champion, said well after the final buzzer he was still in pain.

Embiid carried the load Saturday among a lineup that, in one stretch, included him, Danuel House Jr., De'Anthony Melton, Shake Milton and Georges Niang. Embiid had 32 points and nine rebounds. Milton had 27 points and Melton 19.

Hawks 124, Raptors 122, OT

In Atlanta, Trae Young threw a long pass to A.J. Griffin for a wide-open layup at the overtime buzzer to give Atlanta a win over an undermanned Toronto team.

Young had 29 points and 10 assists, De'Andre Hunter added 21 points and Clint Capela had 18 points and 13 rebounds for the Hawks.

The Raptors led 108-101 with 2:36 to go in the fourth quarter. The Hawks went on a 10-point run in a 90-second span to take a 111-109 lead on Young's two free throws with 59 seconds to go.

Toronto's Scottie Barnes missed a layup and a putback attempt at the buzzer to send the game into overtime. Hunter missed two free throws at the 7-second mark of overtime that would've iced it for Atlanta. O.G. Anunoby followed by hitting a pair of free throws to set up Griffin's game-winner.

Barnes had a season-high 26 points and Anunoby added 23 for the Raptors.

Pacers 114, Magic 113

In Indianapolis, Aaron Nesmith made two free throws with 9.6 seconds left and Indiana came up with a final defensive stop to beat Orlando.

The teams will meet again Monday night in Indianapolis.

In the last seconds, the Magic's Franz Wagner drove to the basket, but his layup attempt was long off the backboard and Mo Bamba was unable to tip in the rebound.

Tyrese Haliburton had 22 points and 14 assists for the Pacers.

Myles Turner had 20 points and 11 rebounds. Indiana is 7-0 when Turner plays at least 26 minutes.

Clippers 119, Spurs 97

In Los Angeles, Paul George scored 21 points, hitting five of the Clippers' season-high 21 3-pointers, and Los Angeles routed a slumping San Antonio team.

Norman Powell added a season-high 26 points off the bench and Reggie Jackson had 20 points as six Clippers scored in double figures.

Kawhi Leonard had 11 points in 22 minutes of his second straight start after missing 12 games because of right knee stiffness. John Wall had 15 assists, becoming the first Clippers player since Chris Paul in 2017 to have at least that many.

Jakob Poeltl led the Spurs with 20 points, while Doug McDermott added 13 points and Tre Jones had 10 assists.

The Clippers took an 18-point lead in the first quarter when they shot 61% from the floor.

Palacios, Maratita lead three categories

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Eric Palacios from the Man Amigos leads two batting categories, while Audie Maratita from Sufa remains the batting leader as of Nov. 13 in the men's division of the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League held every Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

Hard-hitting Palacios swung 14 balls out of the park to lead the home run race, while he also leads the division with the most runs batted in with 47.

Maratita. on the other hand, is still the batting leader of the division with 36 hits out of 50 at bats for an average of .720. The big slugger is tied in second place with Mike Techur right behind Palacios with 13 home runs. Dominic Hideo and Jeff Cruz are behind them with 12, followed by Pete Sablan with 11, and Paul Salalila with 10.

LEIGH GASES
Audie Maratita of Team Sufa is the current batting leader, slugging 36 of 50 at bats for a batting average of .720 in the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League.

Behind Maratita in the batting leaders category is Mark Toves with 28 hits out of 39 at bats for a .718 average. In third place is pitcher Dominic Hideo with 37 hits out of 53 at bats for an average of .698.

Right behind Palacios in the RBI category is Jeff Cruz with 43, Dominic Hideo with 42, J.J Laniyo with 41, Maratita with 37, Mike Techur and Ton Pangelinan with 33, John Taitano with 31, and Paul Salalila with 30.

The most runs scored is 34 made by Clint Quitugua, 33 by Jeff Cruz, 32 by John Terlaje and Paul Salalila, 31 from Dominic Hideo, and 30 from Lefty Shiro.

Tim Wesley leads the doubles category with 13, followed by John Taitano's 10, Jun Lizama and Maratita's nine, and Cartfield Sablan, Lefty Shiro, Greg Magofna, and J.J Laniyo's seven each.

Lefty Shiro leads the hard to hit triples category with six, followed by Ben Mesa and Mike Tomokane with five each, Eric Palacios and John Taitano with four each, and Derek Sasamoto, Jaimi Reyes, Mark Villagomez, and Suo Matsutaro with three each.

Over in the backbone of defense which are the pitchers, Joe Celis of Hagu La'mun is the leading pitcher with 10 games, 53.2 innings pitched, 34 earned runs, 131 hits against him, a 7-3 win-loss record, and 4.47 earned run average. Second to him is the aforementioned Palacios with 11 games, 65 innings pitched, 52 earned runs, 117 hits against him, an 8-3 win-loss record, and a 5.60 earned run average. Third is Dominic Hideo with 17 games played, a 9-8 win-loss card, 103.1 innings pitched, 93 earned runs, 232 hits against him, and an earned run average of 6.31.

The strikeout king is still Hideo with 40 strikeouts followed by Tom Camacho with 29, Ken Kaipat with 27, George David with 26, Leo Bobai with 24, Joe Celis with 23, and Eric Palacios with 22.

LEIGH GASES
The Garapan Elementary School Mallard Quack Attack team in action during the Pacific Islands Club Dodgeball Tournament for Kids last Saturday at the PIC tennis courts.

MALLARDS

From Page 24

sporting equipment.

Second place Dodgeball Destroyers won individual trophies, PIC waterpark passes, and $150 worth of sporting equipment.

Tournament director Dennis Tababa said after the event, "after a five-year hiatus, it's great to see the community and children come back to PIC to participate in the PIC Dodgeball for Kids tournament. I'm very proud of the five teams that competed and applaud Garapan Elementary School's amazing work in defending their dodgeball champion title! The camaraderie, athleticism, and energy these children displayed was so much fun to watch. Can't wait to see the level of competition next year's event will bring. I also want to thank our volunteers for their hard work under the Saipan heat! And lastly, thank you to our sponsors for their continued support: [Pacific Trading Company Ltd.], including Pepsi and Gatorade, Bridge Capital LLC, and Docomo Pacific.

EAFF

From Page 24

Chris Wang, Ganbaatar Amgalanbaatar, Valentino San Gil, Jerry Tan, and Korea Football Association president Mong Gyu Chung in the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Guam Football Association Executive Committee also graced the occasion.

"With the new pitch, I am confident that the development of NMI football will continue. The EAFF will continue to support the NMIFA and we hope to come back here to see the full benefit of the new facilities," the EAFF president added.

Seven-year-old Venice Mangulabnan was one of the young players who welcomed the Executive Committee. She plays for Matansa Football Club U8 team and is very happy to experience playing in the new pitch.

"Me and my teammates are excited to run and chase the ball. We saw players from other teams also having fun. There's a lot of us here enjoying the game with our parents watching us. Thank you NMIFA, thank you EAFF for giving us a new pitch to play."

Meanwhile, NMIFA president Jerry Tan was overwhelmed to see the reception of the players and the NMI soccer community to the visiting EAFF executives at the ceremony.

"They've been playing for hours under the heat, but still have all the energy to greet and give our honored guests a round of applause. One might wonder what the players and even the parents are clapping for that hard. But for me, I know. They understand the big help that the EAFF has extended to the NMIFA through the years and that assistance has been translated into the programs that benefit the players and the rest of the NMI football community. The warm welcome is an expression of gratitude to the EAFF family," Tan said.

"Without the support of the EAFF and other organizations, we will not have this facility to enjoy. We can't do it alone," the NMIFA president added. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
East Asian Football Federation Executive Committee officers and members are greeted by the NMI soccer community as they enter the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Nov. 11.

20T

From Page 24

as he added 8 more points to his team-high 31 to lead his team to the 1-point win.

Joseph Sablan and Castro also finished with 20 points and 18 points, respectively to pack up De Guzman. Aranda fired a game-high 35 markers in the loss, while Keith Santos and Greg Sablan knocked in 18 points apiece for Aqua Resort.

In the second game, national player Shane Deleon Guerrero led AK Toyota to a 69-61 victory over Latte Built.

AK Toyota zoomed to a 18-10 lead after the opening quarter before Latte Built whittled it down to 35-29 at the break.

National players Gerald Flores and Don Brennan would combine for 12 points as Latte Built tied things up at 45-all after three quarters of play.

But Deleon Guerrero would come alive again in the fourth and final canto, spraying 8 points from all over the court to lead AK Toyota to the 8-point win.

Flores matched Deleon Guerrero's 26 points in the loss for Latte Built, while Brennan tossed in 10 markers of his own.

First Game

Eats Easy 105 – De Guzman 31, Sablan 20, Castro 18, Macaraig 10, Deleon Guerrero 10, Ferran 2, Li 1.

Aqua Resort Club 104 – Aranda 35, Sablan 18, Santos 18, Palacios 14, Cui 6, Lu 2, Ma 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-18, 45-35, 66-58, 91-91, 105-104 (OT).

Second Game

AK Toyota 69 – Deleon Guerrero 26, Camacho 9, Lilies 9, Grantor 6, Velasco 6, Ferrer 4, Directo 4, Bryan 2, Joseph 2.

Latte Built 61 – Flores 26, Brennan 10, Mariano 9, Aughenbaugh 8, Francisco 4, Airson 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-10, 35-29, 45-45, 69-61.

US battles injuries, idleness ahead of World Cup opene

PAGE 22

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Palacios, Maratita lead three categories

PAGE 23

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

East Asian Football Federation president Du Zhaocai, fifth left, and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, fourth left, shake hands, while other EAFF Executive Committee officers and members look on after they led the ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the NMIFA Expansion Project at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Nov. 11.

EAFF receives warm welcome at new pitch opening

Hundreds of young players greeted the East Asian Football Federation Executive Committee led by EAFF president Du Zhaocai, as the visiting officials took part in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the NMIFA Expansion Project at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Nov. 11.

The warm welcome was the players and the rest of the NMI soccer family's way of showing gratitude to the EAFF for its support to the program through the years, including the assistance the federation has provided for the construction of the NMISTC's second regulation size pitch.

"I am very glad to join the NMIFA and the NMI football community for the opening of the second full size pitch. The EAFF is delighted to contribute to the construction. Thank you for having us on this wonderful occasion," said Du in front of the nearly 50 teams from eight Northern Mariana Islands Football Association-member clubs that played in a youth festival to mark the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Players' parents and other supporters of the program were also present to greet the visitors and watch the matches.

Du was joined in the ribbon-cutting ceremony by EAFF vice president Kozho Tashima and Hanjin Chun, EAFF Committee members

See EAFF on Page 23

Mallards duck way to dodgeball title

2OT thriller as MIBL tourney starts

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Inaugural IT&E MIBL Fantasy Draft Tournament got started last Friday with Eats Easy and AK Toyota outlasting separate opponents at the Agape Gymnasium.

In the first game, East Easy needed double overtime to beat Aqua Resort Club, 105-104.

Despite being deployed off the bench, Jaymark De Guzman started quickly by scoring 7 points in the first canto that gave Eats Easy a 22-18 lead.

Joseph Sablan took over the scoring cudgels in the second, unloading 6 of his points as Eats Easy entered halftime with a more comfortable 45-35 advantage.

Eats Easy continued to control the game in the third as national player Jeffrey Castro dialed up two from 3-point range to help his team to a 66-58 spread entering the fourth period.

Aqua Resort wasn't about to give up the fight though, as Jack Aranda saved his best for last, shooting his team back into the ballgame by exploding for 16 points in the final 10 minutes of regulation to force overtime.

In fact, his 4-point play with the precious seconds ticking down forced a 91-all deadlock that necessitated the game going into two extensions.

In the two OTs, De Guzman made sure East East would sleep well that night

See 2OT on Page 23

MARK RABAGO

Eats Easy and Aqua Resort Club players meet at center court for the jump ball of the Inaugural IT&E MIBL Fantasy Draft Tournament last Friday at the Agape Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Garapan Elementary School Mallard Quack Attack won first place in the Pacific Islands Club Saipan Dodgeball Tournament for Kids after defeating the Dodgeball Destroyers last Saturday at the PIC tennis courts.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Garapan Elementary School's Mallard Quack Attack defeated Dodgeball Destroyers as the fifth graders dodged and attacked their way to the finals of the PIC Dodgeball Tournament for Kids last Saturday morning at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan tennis courts.

After returning from a five-year hiatus, five teams—the Mallard Quack Attack, Dodgeball Destroyers, Brilliant Star, Junior Clubmates, and Team Nang vied for the perpetual dodgeball trophy, individual trophies, and prizes.

The Mallard Quack Attack made their way to the finals in the winner's bracket of the five-team double elimination against the Dodgeball Destroyers, after defeating the Destroyers in their first match, and then outdodging Brilliant Star.

The Destroyers fell to the loser's bracket in their loss against GES, but bounced their way to the finals against GES again after defeating the Junior Clubmates and Brilliant Star.

Angel Calayag, Kyara McCale, Reddic Leon Guerrero, Kanoa Owens, Eli Hofschneider, Casmiro Cosmes, D'Arton, Tyree, Seraya, and Jayvin Reyes made up the GES team.

Quido Jambor, Noah Lewis, Carver Gross, Windsor Gross, Baeva Edvalson, Leilani Ruszala, Scarlett Loken, Harper Loken, and Scarlett Burrell made up the Dodgeball Destroyers team.

The champions Mallard Quack Attack won their name on the perpetual trophy, individual trophies, Magellan Lunch and PIC waterpark passes, and $300 worth of

See MALLARDS on Page 23